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COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT OPENS SOUTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE

PA250021 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 84

["Excerpts" of speech by Colombian President Belisario Betancur to open the South-South Conference in Cartagena on 23 February -- recorded]

[Excerpts] The world must promote the exports of developing nations to facilitate the servicing of their debts, among other reasons. However, the GATT has been shown to be helpless in the face of protectionist trends. The international economic system must extend long-range lines of credit to developing nations. There is a reluctance to strengthen the World Bank and the IDB. It is urgently necessary to strengthen the IMF compensation fund and to create a compensatory mechanism that would allow developing countries to make payments on above average interest, To date there is still no real understanding of this problem.

These adjustments are necessary to simultaneously reactivate the economies of the North and South. However, serious mistakes exist in the decisionmaking process at the international level. As mentioned by former Prime Minster (Wasiki) during a recent conference in Bogota, the decision to implement the European reconstruction plan took only 3 weeks. It saved Europe. Why not draft a plan that is adjusted to the situation in Central America, the Caribbean, and other developing countries? Could it be that the arms race does not leave the time, energy, or resources for anything else?

If Latin America normalizes its development, it would gradually increase and sustain its international participation, as Professor Leontif, 1973 Nobel Prize laureate for economics, has predicted in a study for the UN on the world economic outlook. The Latin American GNP could reach 40 percent of that of Western Europe, instead of the current 20 percent or, to put it another way, Latin America and the Caribbean could generate approximately 10 percent of the world's production of goods and services by the year 2,000 instead of the current 5 percent. This new level of participation would be satisfactory, according to Leontif, because it would be equivalent to the combined shares of Japan and Eastern Europe. The region's human and natural resources would suffice to reach that objective. What is necessary is a strategy to reconcile the policies of oil-producing, socialist, developing, and highly industrialized countries. There is a need for adequate terms of trade and reasonable financial conditions. It is also necessary to selectively stimulate the production of capital goods, since many countries have successfully replaced such goods and equipment with semi-manufactured ones.

Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama are four countries that have pooled their differences and individual viewpoints and directed them toward the search for peace in Central America. None of them seeks a starring role. These four countries, despite their natural physiognomic and even psychic differences, form a single entity in the eager search for peace.

We are not asking much of the superpowers when we request that they settle their differences outside our area. We respect human autonomy and the autonomy of the states as legal entities seeking a place in history. As a result of our respect for that autonomy, we also respect the superpowers' wish to destroy each other, as is shown by their reciprocal accusations.

We are not asking for much when we ask that this crazy attempt at destruction be staged in some area other than ours. The Contadora Group is seeking peace in Central America, the Caribbean, and anywhere else that may need a herald to praise and promote peace.

Common Front Proposed

PA261907 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0258 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 25 Feb (EFE) -- The creation of a Latin American front was proposed today by 60 delegates from 20 countries as the sole means of facing the Central American crisis.

Representatives from Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Chile, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Tanzania, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, and Colombia, supported by Brazil, China, Spain, and Yugoslavia, came out in favor of a common front in view of the "aggression" undertaken on the isthmus by the superpowers.

The motion was made before the adjournment of the South-South Conference that is examining Latin America's economic situation and the prospects for cooperation between the "North" and the "South."

OFFICIALS ARRIVE IN CHILE FOR NORTH-SOUTH MEETING

PY271840 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Personalities invited to participate in the North-South meeting, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA], have begun arriving in the country. The economic-financial meeting will open on Monday and will last until Wednesday.

ECLA Executive Secretary Enrique Iglesias has explained that the main objective of the meeting will be to discuss the current international financial situation. The case of Latin America and the impact which its foreign debt may have on the international financial system will be dealt with specifically. Iglesias explained that this situation might even lead to a reform of the economic system of the world.

U.S. 'SUGGESTIONS' FOR DEBT RENEGOTIATION

PY290243 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1934 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb (NA) -- Political sources have leaked information that the renegotiation of the Argentine foreign debt could have diplomatic, military, and technological connotations, according to certain "suggestions" made by U.S. Government sources. It would seem that the U.S. Government -- especially the Pentagon -- will try to tie the financial problem to a solution of the southern border conflicts in the area, and especially to an agreement on the Malvinas Islands with the United Kingdom.

The information indicates that Argentina could obtain concessions similar to those granted to Brazil, that is, rebates of interest and commissions and even the possibility of gaining access for its grains to Arab markets. This possibility of selling its grain to countries in the Near and Middle East would allow Argentina to increase its trade balance surplus and thus its ability to cope with the balance-of-payments deficit.

In return for giving up these markets, the U.S. Government sources apparently requested the reestablishment of the UNITAS operation in the South Atlantic with the participation of the Argentine Navy and an agreement with the United Kingdom to lift mutual restrictions on the area. The information also indicates that the United States finds it inconvenient to continue supplying the Malvinas from Ascencion Island because of the distance and believes that it would be easier to supply this southern stronghold from the American continent itself using the coast of Patagonia in Argentina. Furthermore, the Western powers are also interested in putting an end to Argentine policies on nuclear development, especially any project aimed at moving into the international market for enriched uranium.

The sources did not know the position that the Argentine Government could take toward these proposals because international creditors are applying considerable pressure and seem to be little inclined to renegotiate the debt on terms more favorable to Argentina.

Grinspun on Debt Talks

PY290137 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0026 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun today affirmed that we will not close the economy, because we want to expand the economy and not close it. He added that we believe we will have no difficulty in reaching an agreement with international institutions, and will therefore not need to close the economy. In statements to journalists accredited to the Finance Ministry a few hours after returning from Europe, Grinspun said that the terms of the agreements on our country's foreign debt will not be dictated by Argentina but, by the same token, we will not accept impositions from the outside. They, like any other negotiation, are the result of compromise.

He then emphasized that the solutions will not be reached at the expense of the country's poor sectors as has been usually done, and dismissed the notion that negotiations with the IMF affect the sovereignty of countries, especially if the countries do not want to have their sovereignty affected.

Grinspun said that if the military government managed to reach an agreement with the IMF, including a 160-percent real salary increase, moving an indicator upwards, another downwards, we should also be able to reach an agreement. The economy minister made that statement upon being asked whether Argentina could live by paying cash, that is, paying in advance for imports if the economy were to be closed to the outside.

Minister Grinspun also recounted his talks with six Italian ministers and representatives of Italian private sectors, and announced that in the next few days there will be news about important capital investment by Italians in Argentina, anticipating that the principal ones will be made in the areas of electric plant construction, hydroelectric development, expansion of metallurgy plants, railroad industry, expansion of the Buenos Aires subway network, and waterlines. First we have to set the priorities. Grinspun also said that Italian bankers want to expand their lines of credit to Argentina.

Talking about his meeting in Paris with France's Treasury Director Michel Camdessus, Grinspun explained that they analyzed the mechanism for reconciling our country's foreign debt figures, and that the head of the Paris Club had anticipated the willingness of the Club's members to meet if Argentina makes the political decision to request refinancing the obligations owed them. The economy minister noted that once the evaluation of the Argentine foreign debt by the Central Bank is completed, it may turn out that our debts with the Paris Club are even higher than we expected. After reiterating that the government will meet all legitimate foreign commitments, Grinspun said that Congress may have an opinion on the foreign debt because this question has to be totally clear and it transcends party lines. However, he said that the IMF officials could not be called to explain aspects of the negotiations to Congress, as was proposed by a congressman.

Asked about the statement by Radical economist Daniel Larriqueta on the purported existence of a government plan on the question of foreign negotiations, Grinspun said that it was Larriqueta's opinion, because the government's position was expressed on 10 December in Congress, as well as on other occasions by President Alfonsin.

In closing his conversation with the journalists, Minister Grinspun anticipated that at the meeting of the economic and social cabinet next Wednesday the economic variables to be applied in March will be analyzed and that beginning tomorrow the payrolls of the various sectors of the national administration will be analyzed to prepare the current year's budget.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH UK

PY281608 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1440 GMT 28 Feb 84

[By NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Geneva, 28 Feb (NA) -- During a press conference held here after reading his message to the UN Disarmament Commission, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo "categorically" dismissed the possibility of "destabilizing actions" against Raul Alfonsin's government and flatly refused to recognize Mario Firmenich as a member of the Argentine left "and still less of Peronism."

Regarding the negotiations with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands, Caputo admitted that last night he discussed the subject with his Swiss counterpart, Pierre Aubert -- it was stated that Minister Aubert met with the British ambassador to Berne this morning -- but that the Argentine Government had still not received an answer to its 16 February note which, in turn, was an answer to the first note issued by London on 26 January.

Caputo quoted Alfonsin by stating that "if there is a will there is a path to negotiation," but warned that in the same way as the British maintain that "we will sit down at the negotiating table so long as the subject of sovereignty is not mentioned, we Argentines maintain that sovereignty is the priority issue in the negotiations."

"I can say on behalf of the Argentina Government," Caputo said, "that our nation will maintain two principles: that the Malvinas are Argentine and that Argentina will recover the southern archipelago only through diplomatic channels and by observing the resolutions repeatedly adopted by the UN General Assembly."

Concerning Argentine-Soviet relations, Caputo said that "regardless of the political and ideological differences between the two governments, nothing prevents an increase in commercial ties between the two countries."

Journalists also asked Caputo about the situation in Central America. Caputo stressed that "Argentina has expressed support for a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict. From outside the Contadora Group, we will actively participate in the search for an ultimate solution: that Latin America stop being the focus of confrontations between the two blocs."

Reiterates Position in Madrid

PY290116 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0009 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Madrid, 28 Feb (EFE) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today said here that his country and Great Britain maintain distant positions in the negotiations over the Malvinas Islands, especially regarding the sovereignty issue. "The British are saying that they will not sit down to negotiate if we discuss sovereignty, and we say that we will not negotiate unless sovereignty is discussed," Caputo said upon arriving in Madrid from Geneva. Caputo indicated that the British Government has on hand a proposal for a solution to the Malvinas conflict made by Raul Alfonsin's government. The foreign minister refused to disclose the terms of the offer, which his country had made out of "courtesy" to the British Government.

The Argentine foreign minister is paying an 18-hour private visit to Madrid, where he will meet with his Spanish counterpart, Fernando Moran, to review bilateral relations.

Ever since the 1982 Malvinas conflict, Argentina and Great Britain have kept their distance and have not discussed the sovereignty issue. Dialogue began on 26 January when Great Britain conveyed to Buenos Aires "some ideas" that could serve as an introduction for the establishment of common ground to begin talks.

Caputo indicated that the arrest of high-ranking military officers involved in cases of missing persons during the military regime do not pose a problem for political stability. "It is quite the opposite. Had the government failed to do what it is now doing, we would be setting up a time bomb," Caputo added. He explained that there is no lust for vengeance in his country in connection with missing persons; it is merely a question of "building for the future" in keeping with the rules of a state of law, which calls upon "clear-cut actions by the courts." The Argentine foreign minister said that Argentina has 600 judges fully trained to do their present job.

Concerning the renegotiation of the Argentine foreign debt, which amounts to some $43 billion, Caputo explained that the process of renegotiating the debt is very complex but is being carried out "in line with the prestige of a nation which has recovered its democracy." He said: "We will pay, but not by accepting formulas unbearable from the social and moral viewpoint."

Caputo summarized the first 100 days of Alfonsin's administration, emphasizing three aspects in which he said that "firm steps forward" have been taken: reestablishment of civilian rule, economy and finance, and reorganization of trade unions.

The foreign minister explained that this private visit will help prepare the official visit which he is planning to make next May. Tonight the Argentine foreign minister will dine with his Spanish counterpart Fernando Moran and will leave Spain for Mexico early in the morning.

More on European Tour

For other aspects of Foreign Minister Dante Caputo's trip to Europe, including his pre-released speech to the UN Conference on Disarmament and his 27 February meeting with ILO Director General Francis Blanchard, see the International Affairs section of the 29 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

GERMAN GREEN PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ON VISIT

PY290010 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2050 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb (NA) -- The Green Party of the FRG today expressed its solidarity with the Plaza de Mayo mothers on the problem of their missing relatives, and explained that this support is not meant "to pressure" the government of President Raul Alfonsin, nor is it meant "to interfere" in the internal affairs of Argentina.

On another subject, the German Green Party contended that to solve the problem of the foreign debt of developing countries, Argentina among them, "the IMF should be dissolved" and replaced by another financial organization that "will not be an instrument used to defend the interests of the industrialized countries."

Green Deputies Julius Kriszan and Cristha Nickels made these statements at a press conference they granted at the office of the Human Rights Defense Organization upon their arrival in the country. The FRG legislators apologized that this was not a nonpartisan delegation, and expressed interest in the policies drawn up by the Radical government regarding nuclear energy, the purchase of arms abroad, the labor movement reorganization, ecology, urban settlements, pesticides, and, above all, human rights.

They announced that a delegation of the FRG Social Democratic Party, with which the Green Party joins in opposition to the Christian Social Union, Christian Democratic Union, and Free Democratic Party alliance now in government, will visit Argentina next month.

GALTIERI'S ARREST CHANGED TO PREVENTIVE CUSTODY

PY282212 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Armed Forces Superior Council has reported that the detention of Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, retired, has been turned into strict preventive custody [prision preventiva rigurosa]. According to the provisions of the military code, this means that the accused could be subject to loss of rank, the death sentence, confinement (in a military prison or unit), or seclusion (isolation in border prisons). He could also be given a sentence concurrent with loss of rank.

Nothing has been reported on the legal status of former Navy Commander Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya.

OUTGOING MINISTER ON PRICE, SUPPLY POLICIES

PY281621 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Outgoing Industry and Commerce Minister Oscar Bonifaz yesterday announced that as long as he is the incumbent, the supply of subsidized staples will be discontinued. Something I shall not do as a departing minister is to deliver staples with prices below their costs. I will not, and no one can force me, do it because that would be equivalent to depleting the country, to looting it -- having staples drained abroad and leaving the people without the necessary food for their survival, Bonifaz told the press. The minister claimed that subsidized prices would lead only to a more serious food supply pinch, as they trigger an increase in contraband to neighboring countries and cause illicit retail operations. He stated that until a clear-cut pricing policy is outlined, the supply of sugar, rice, oil, and flour for the bakeries will be discontinued. Bonifaz added that this situation will last until the president of the Republic designates a new industry and commerce minister; this minister will then make the final decision on the official real pricing and supply policy. Bonifaz, who has irrevocably resigned in order to avoid conflicts with the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] and because his proposals on prices were not endorsed by the cabinet, said that subsidized flour was recently delivered to the bakeries but that, nonetheless, the bread shortage persists, especially in La Paz.

MINISTER ALVAREZ ON DISORDER; POLICE CHIEF NAMED

PY280250 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] This afternoon during a ceremony held in Government House, President Hernan Siles Zuazo installed General (Mario Rada Fernandez) as the new commander of the Bolivian Police, following the interior minister's call for the replacement of General Mario Teran Lavadenz. During a speech Interior Minister Federico Alverez Plata said that the democratic process is being threatened by groups that are trying to create a state of chaos and anarchy at a time when the country is experiencing a difficult situation. He said, however, that it is amazing how the Bolivian people are reacting against all efforts to destabilize the government, and that the people are becoming aware of the importance of preserving the state of law.

[Begin Alverez Plata recording] [Words indistinct] those who contradict the will of the people. In this regard, now that we are struggling to find a solution to the risis, minority groups are encouraging disorder to worsen the problem of supplying basic products and to paralyze the country's productive sector. These actions are being backed by people who seeking political gains, or wishing to destabilize the democratic process to reestablish the system of privileges institutionalized by the dictatorships of the past. [end recording]

The interior minister said that under the current democratic regime, the Bolivian police must play a decisive role, struggling against all actions violating the Constitution. He added that the crisis can be overcome if the police work together with the Bolivian people.

WORKERS, COMMUTERS CLASH IN COCHABAMBA

PY280239 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0137 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 27 Feb (EFE) -- Bolivian transport workers today ended the fifth day of their indefinite general strike staged to compel the government to adjust bus fares. Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata warned the transport workers that the government will take measures if this public service does not return to normal. Reports from Cochabamba, some 500 km southeast of La Paz and the third most important Bolivian city, indicated that today leaders of the transport workers and riders clashed as the former decided to block the roads and main avenues of this capital. Several buses were destroyed before the police could intervene.

COB REPLIES TO ARMED FORCES ON VARGAS CASE

PY281548 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] has reiterated in writing the charges against General Mario Vargas Salinas on his presumed subversive activities. This information was supplied to the press by Filemon Escobar, a ranking COB leader, who added that the COB has information that some retired military personnel and private businessmen in the eastern part of the country are involved in subversive activities aimed at disrupting the democratic process reinstated in October 1982. Escobar read COB's letter of reply, which was addressed to Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces General Alfredo Villarroel. The text of the letter reads as follows:

[Begin recording] General, in response to your letter dated 24 February in which you asked that the COB produce evidence on the accusation leveled by a COB leader on the subversive moves of General Mario Vargas Salinas, we state the following:

1. As we have already said, [words indistinct] Juan Lechin Oquendo, and this is a usual story, no conspirator will leave written evidence of the conspiracy (?being) plotted. We do not know of a case like this, since this is part of the logic of conspiracies.

2. The COB, however, has information from various, extremely reliable, sources on the contacts prompted by Gen Vargas seeking to involve other military leaders in activities contrary to the democratic process. Many retired military personnel and some private businessmen in the eastern part of the country are also involved in these antidemocratic efforts.

3. After matching and confirming these reports, the COB executive secretary passed them on to high-level officials in the government for their review and verification. We believe that the appropriate Army services must consider these charges in earnest and evaluate them, instead of trying to dismiss them rashly.

4. We want to reiterate that the COB is not against the military and that it does not abet any action against the Armed Forces, as has been hinted by some state dignitaries or high-ranking military officers. The accusation was made because we deem it part of our responsibility to preserve this dear democratic process from its foes inside and outside the Army. We only [word indistinct] the Armed Forces because we are convinced that there are military personnel, officials, and others who deny that the preservation of the democratic process is one of the country's needs.

With our best regards, COB [end recording]

According to this document, Gen Vargas has reportedly contacted several individuals in order to pursue his goals.

URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT REJECTS 'LIBERAL DEMOCRACY'

PY281302 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0917 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 28 Feb (EFE) -- Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez has given assurances in Brazil that Uruguay will never again have a liberal democracy. Alvarez also accused leftist groups of hindering, through pressure on the government, what he called the "redemocratization process." According to Brazilian diplomatic sources, Alvarez made this statement to his Brazilian counterpart, General Joao Figueiredo, with whom he held a 50-minute meeting at the Planalto Presidential Palace on Monday.

Alvarez, who is today carrying out the second part of his 2-day official visit to Brazilia, is scheduled to hold another meeting with Figueiredo. One of the most important points on his agenda is a courtesy visit to Congress. Alvarez' visit to Congress has been rejected by opposition congressmen, who will not be at the legislative palace. The Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], the largest party that opposes Figueiredo, has stated in a communique that "we are thus supporting the Uruguayan people's struggle to overthrow the nefarious military regime headed by Alvarez and to restore their democratic liberties." The PMDB note was distributed shortly after Alvarez' arrival in Brasilia. At the same time, Uruguayan exiles have held demonstrations in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Porto Alegre to demand Alvarez' resignation and the granting of amnesty for the 1,500 political prisoners held by Montevideo regime.

Commentary on Visit, Uruguay

PY281321 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Commentary by analyst Newton Carlos: "The Uruguayan President's Visit to Brazil"]

[Text] Uruguayan President General Gregorio Alvarez is in Brazil on an official visit. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry would have preferred to have Alvarez' visit prevented, or at least postponed, until the picture in Uruguay becomes clearer. Gen Alvarez wants to cling to power in Uruguay. His ambitions and his projects to stay in power are well known, (?although) most Uruguayan military men want to pass on the burden. Of course, an opening [words indistinct], something they do not want, for example, elections but no amnesty. The 1,000 political prisoners must remain in prison, and the hundreds of dismissals must go on. Also, a new constitution, which seems to be a national security law, must be imposed. This is the Uruguay that Gen Alvarez represents. We even prefer Uruguay the way it used to be. Who knows what the future has in store for Uruguay?

MEXICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT 28-31 MARCH

PY280035 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will visit Brazil at the invitation of President Joao Figueiredo from 28 to 31 March. This information was disclosed by Itamaraty today.

PASSENGERS PILLAGE ANOTHER TRAIN IN SAO PAULO

PY281350 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Another train of the Federal Railroad Network has been pillaged. A convoy broke down between the stations of [words indistinct] and its upset passengers shattered glass and tore out the seats. The military police, who showed up immediately, prevented some of the most upset passengers from setting the cars on fire.

SANTIAGO ARCHBISHOP REGRETS PUNTA ARENAS EVENTS

PY281430 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno has repudiated political acts, such as the one that took place in Punta Arenas, in which a clergyman actively participates. The archbishop of Santiago held a brief meeting with the media upon his arrival at the Santiago prison, where he attended the inauguration of a prisoners sporting event.

Msgr Fresno said that the Punta Arenas church authorities must investigate what happened during the incident which took place in that southern city. Nevertheless, he stated, the whole thing is regrettable.

[Begin Fresno recording] I was just reading what happened in the newspaper and I really regret it. I have just arrived from there and regret the incident. I hope that the press reports reflect what really happened.

We hope to discuss this issue within the standing committee when we get an opportunity to meet with the Punta Arenas bishop and learn what really happened in that city and what was intended [words indistinct] with that group of youngsters. [end recording]

The Santiago archbishop stressed that the participation of clergymen in political activities is absolutely prohibited. This has even been reiterated by Pope John Paul II himself on various occasions.

[Begin Fresno recording] The church has clearly stated, and this is one of its main principles, that it demands that all clergymen fully refrain from any political activities and [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Msgr Fresno said that his position regarding such incidents has not changed -- that he publicly rejects any participation of clergymen in political acts. Asked what message he would address to those clergymen who may possibly be misguided by these regrettable incidents, he said that he was sure they were [words indistinct].

[Begin Fresno recording] (?I believe) they are mature enough not to let themselves be misguided by this type of incident. Unfortunately, in every society there are always people who carry out certain activities of which others do not approve. Therefore, I believe that within society itself a [words indistinct] to the people's civic maturity and the respect that they deserve from the authorities. [end recording]

When asked about the efforts of these incidents, Archbishop Fresno pointed out that they are just acts of bad taste and that on no account can it be stated that the Catholic Church is in crisis.

[Begin Fresno recording] In the first place, we must not believe that incidents of this type will lead to a severing of relations. These are incidents of bad taste carried out by misguided people. Therefore, because some people carry out certain types of actions, does it mean that an entire institution, such as the church, is in crisis? [end recording]

Asked about the press conference to be held by Father (Rafael Baroto), Msgr Fresno said that it has still not taken place. The aforementioned priest declared that he is the official spokesman of the terrorist Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR].

Mine Leaders Condemn Incident

PY280244 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Mineworkers of El Teniente mine are annoyed by the events that took place in Punta Arenas, where Jose Ruiz Di Giorgio, president of the Oil Workers Federation, was injured and then arrested. (Benito Limardo Casanova) has a report for us from Rancagua.

[Begin relay] Good afternoon. This is a report for Radio Cooperativa from Rancagua, the Chilean copper capital. El Teniente mineworkers have reacted strongly against the attack on Jose Ruiz Di Giorgio, president of the Oil Workers Federation. This reaction was conveyed by (Eduardo Diaz Solis), secretary of the El Teniente mineworkers, to Radio Cooperativa.

[Begin (Diaz) recording] We are really concerned over the events that took place in Punta Arenas yesterday, particularly because one of our friends and collegues, Jose Ruiz Di Giorgio, was involved. He was attacked and has been hospitalized in Punta Arenas. We believe that the National Workers Command must take measures because workers, old people, and union and political leaders were arrested during yesterday's events. There is talk that Marxists are hiding in churches, but I would like to say that during the Popular Unity administration we were accused of being CIA agents or fascists. Now under this administration we are accused of being communists. [end recording] [end relay]

DEL VALLE SAYS NUNCIATURE CASE 'UNDER STUDY'

PY242140 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The chief of state has said no to the safe-conducts, but not in a definite and categorical manner, because he said that the subject is under study. This was reported by Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime Del Valle, who granted a press conference on the nunciature case. He explained that General Pinochet's denial, quote, was a no as of that moment, on that occasion. He has not said that it was an absolute, definite, and categorical no. It was not so conclusive. Otherwise, he would have ordered the end of studies, unquote. The foreign minister was asked about the nuncio's statement that it was a lack of courtesy not to respond to the request for safe-conducts submitted by the holy father.

[Begin Del Valle recording] I do not think it is a lack of courtesy. The government has not granted these safe-conducts only because it has to consider specific arguments on the matter. Ambassador Reslie in due time will also present a report to Cardinal Cassaroli and to other Holy See authorities, explaining that it is not a lack of courtesy, but, to the contrary, this problem is being studied more carefully as a courtesy to the pope. [end recording]

The foreign minister added that this case poses very complex legal problems, but that a solution is being sought. He was asked about the nuncio's statement that tradition in granting safe-conducts precedes the laws.

[Begin Del Valle recording] Tradition cannot be followed at all times, because there are cases of very special seriousness in which tradition is necessarily broken. So, when some previous cases are cited, they refer to not very serious cases. This is a very different case. I have said this from the very beginning. The study of this problem requires more time, because it is a different problem, especially because of the seriousness and the circumstances, which are known to all. [end recording]

The foreign minister added that there was no immediate answer to the pope because the government feels that persons who commit very serious crimes cannot be granted safe-conducts. He was asked about the terms of the talks held with Msgr Angelo Sodano, because the nuncio seemed very upset on leaving the palace.

[Begin De Valle recording] The meeting was rather calm. I am rather surprised, but perhaps the nuncio was upset for other reasons, or perhaps because he thought he would (?obtain different results). From what I could see during the meeting, he was very cordial and even expressed satisfication at a given moment. [end recording]

Later during the press conference, the minister was very upset with the press. He said that the press was harassing him on this issue. He was told that the actions of the press are due to the expectations created on this case.

[Begin Del Valle recording] Well, I think you have created this expectation. I think the people who live far from Santiago do not care about what is happening. Or perhaps you will ask me when will this end. And I think this has been discussed every day. What did he say, what did he not say, what note was sent, etc. I want to repeat, you will be informed in due time about any step that might be taken. [end recording]

He finally stated that a cable has been forwarded to Vatican State Secretary Cardinal Cassaroli reporting on the studies that the Chilean Government is carrying out.

Bishop: Unreleased Documents

PY280311 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0157 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 27 Feb (EFE) -- Today Concepcion Bishop Msgr Jose Manuel Santos warned that if the problem of the four people who sought asylum in the Apostolic Nunciature is not solved soon, it can create a "distressing" situation. In statements made in Concepcion, 500 km south of Santiago, Msgr Santos, who is also vice president of the Episcopal Conference, said that "Chile has defended the right to asylum, and the right of every country to classify the reason for seeking asylum." Msgr Santos said that both the nunciature and the Chilean Episcopal Conference have in their possession documents that have not been released related to the four people who sought asylum.

BANK SUPERINTENDENT BLANCO RESIGNS, ARRESTED

PY281919 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Relay from the Finance Ministry by Ricardo Urzua]

[Text] The Finance Ministry has disclosed that the resignation of Banks and Financial Enterprises Superintendent Boris Blanco has been accepted. The brief communique issued a few minutes ago by the Finance Ministry reads:

On 27 February 1984 his excellency the president of the Republic accepted the resignation of Banks and Financial Enterprises Superintendant Boris Blanco which was submitted soley because of personal reasons. (Valdicio Larrain Carles), the current bank superintendant, has been appointed as interim superintendant.

This is the text of the brief communique issued by the Finance Ministry regarding Boris Blanco's resignation as banks and financial enterprises superintendant. It should be recalled that Court of Appeals Judge Hernan Cereceda ordered Boris Blanco's arrest after interrogating him for 1 hour this morning, after which (?he was taken to jail).

EPL HIGH COMMAND SETS CONDITIONS FOR TRUCE

PA290227 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Feb 84 p 5-B

[Excerpts] The Maoist-leaning People's Liberation Army, EPL, has said that it is willing to lay down its weapons and agree to a cease-fire if the government guarantees that it will grant full freedom for EPL members to participate in the nation's political activity. This decision was revealed by three members of the EPL High Command to Hector Abad Gomez, president of the Human Rights Commission in Antioquia, and Ernesto Maldonado, secretary of the Peace Commission, during a 4-hour meeting in Medellin on Wednesday. EL TIEMPO has learned that meeting between the Peace Commission representatives and the three EPL spokesmen -- who are also active members of an EPL urban guerrilla cell operating in Medellin -- took place in Abad Gomez' office, that it began at 1000, and that it lasted 4 hours. In addition to the political guarantees, the EPL has asked the government to allow it to pursue its own methods of struggle as long as they abide by the laws and the Constitution. The EPL representatives said that the EPL is not only willing to agree to a truce but also to take part in the talks that the Peace Commission is holding with the other Colombian rebel groups.

Maldonado reported that they stated that the EPL will maintain its stand regarding the social, political, and economic changes that Colombia needs, but pointed out that these aspirations do not imply any conditions for their reintegration into civilian life or the contributions they will make to the peace efforts. It was agreed in the meeting that the EPL will deliver a document containing its proposals directly to former Minister Agudelo Rios [John Agudelo Rios, president of the Colombian Peace Commission]. A new meeting will be held after the EPL's High Command has had enough time to contact its different cells and explain its position on the steps being taken by the Peace Commission to secure a truce. Wednesday's meeting is the second between Peace Commission spokesmen and the guerrillas, who had initially shown less willingness agree to a truce. Additional talks were held with ELN members in Bogota on Thursday. The ELN members also said that they are willing to accept a cease-fire.

SHINING PATH REPORTEDLY FINANCES GUERRILLAS

PA282131 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Feb 84 p 6-B

[Excerpts] Military sources in Bogota have hinted at the possibility that the Peruvian Maoist group "Shining Path" might be financing several international guerrilla organizations through kidnappings, particularly in Colombia. This has been inferred from several documents seized by Santander Department's military intelligence service. A military intelligence service spokesman explained that the members of the Peruvian group might be operating in the country in complicity with Popular Liberation Army (EPL) dissidents, who are seeking financial aid.

MOPOCO CALLS FOR DIALOGUE; PLRA LAWYER DETAINED

PY231642 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Feb 84 p 13

[Excerpts] The MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] calls on everyone for an open and straightforward dialogue to determine the best approach for achieving total democratization in the country without having to resort to violent methods or repressive attitudes. This is what MOPOCO members told the press yesterday during a press conference. They rejected the accusations that they were subversives, accusations leveled by the interior minister last Tuesday during a Colorado Party rally. They said that the MOPOCO has always acted with principles and legality. The meeting was attended by Miguel A. Gonzalez Casabianca, Enrique Riera, Julio Cesar Vasconcellos, Angel Florentin Pena, Antonio Gonzalez Prieto, Mario Mallorquin, and Captain Eduardo Sardi, retired.

Gonzalez Casabianca stated that "the MOPOCO returned to the country after 25 years in exile and after the president of the Republic and the interior minister gave assurances to the people and to the presidents of friendly countries that nobody was exiled from Paraguay and that MOPOCO members could return and fully exercise their national and party rights. After these assurances were given, we gradually returned, but it has become obvious that this alleged facility granted us to return to the country to exercise our rights was totally partial and fabricated.

Gonzalez Casabianca stated that "since we set foot in our country, after a long absence, a close and tight police surveillance has been imposed on us, something that has seriously hindered our activities, both personal and those related to meeting our political associates. Over the past few days, this surveillance has become tighter. There is truly an escalation of the repression unleashed against MOPOCO members. It is then obvious that the police harassment, which is intimidating, flagrantly violates the guarantees that the government itself granted upon our return to the country."

"This poses serious difficulties for us, but in no way will it frighten or divert us from our goal of exercising our rights and gain the public and party freedom to which we are entitled. Now there are other extremely serious repressive actions which are aggravating. These actions are probably aimed at drastically interrupting our efforts in our country's politics. We have been warned that the government allegedly knows about alleged subversive activities on our part in the country," Gonzalez Casabiancy said.

"We want to appeal to the authorities so that the police surveillance, as well as this intimidating campaign, which does not at all contribute in creating the conditions for peace and a national accord that the authorities usually claim are their goals, be ended. On the other hand, I would like to inform the people that the MOPOCO has formed a task force, a coordinating committee, that is made up of leaders who have returned from exile and of prominent Colorado leaders with a long Colorado record residing in the country," Gonzalez Casabianca added.

"I would like to introduce these members: Dr Enrique Riera, Dr Julio Vasconcellos, Dr Enrique Zacarias Arza, Dr Arsenio Vasconcellos, Dr Andres Bogado Romero, and Dr Francisco Centurion. Councillors are: Dr Jose Zacarias Arza, Dr Humberto Florentin Pena, and Dr Humberto Zarza."

Dr Enrique Riera then spoke, saying: "I have the Colorado Party Charter and its new program. Article 4 of this charter is very important, and all Colorado Party faithful must know it. Article 4 clearly establishes the irrevocable democratic stance of the Colorado Party. The coordinating committee is engaged in the task of the recovering democracy in the country through the MOPOCO and the Colorado Party, although it substantially opposes the party leadership vested in its executive board. It again publicly calls on our fellow members of the Colorado Party Executive Board to hold and maintain an open and straightforward dialogue to discuss how and in what manner the Colorado Party must and should, due to its historic record and its significant mass support, head the total democratization process of the institutions in Paraguay," Riera said.

Yesterday, during the press conference called by MOPOCO, attorney Felino Amarilla was detained and taken to the Investigative Police Department. As of press time, Amarilla was still being held. Amarilla tried to gain access to the house where the press conference was being held, at the corner of Murillo and Sargento Gauto Streets. Amarilla is a member of the Radical Liberal Authentic Party (PLRA) and, according to the policemen who detained him, tried to gain access to the house in a boisterous manner, without identifying himself. No mention was made as to the capacity in which Amarilla was to attend the press conference.

The policemen who detained Amarilla were dressed in civilian clothes and seized two rolls of film from an ABC COLOR photographer, believing that the latter had taken pictures of them when they were detaining Amarilla.

The PLRA Executive Board yesterday reported Felino Amarilla's detention, demanding his immediate release, and expressed solidarity with him, regarding such an action as "arbitrary and unfair," as Dr Miguel Abdon Saguier, PLRA secretary general, put it. Today there will be a special meeting of the PLRA to decide what steps will be taken in this case.

MOPOCO PRESIDENT DEPARTS FOR MEETINGS IN URUGUAY

PY282109 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p 7

[Excerpt] MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] President Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca left for Montevideo at noon today. The MOPOCO president will carry out important activities. He has arranged several meetings with leaders of the Uruguayan Blanco and Colorado Parties to discuss the forum of political parties that will be held in Paraguay in the near future.

SEPULVEDA, LLOREDA DISCUSS CONTADORA EFFORTS

FL280243 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0250 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda today warned that if solutions are imposed by force on Central America, nothing will be able to prevent dissatisfaction from finding new and more explosive means. That is why, he added, we (the Contadora Group) will continue to champion solutions that advocate reason and not those that advocate the use of force.

Sepulveda made these comments this afternnon at the presentation ceremony of the Sash of the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle to Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda. Lloreda was meeting with the Mexican secretary on the 2d day of a 4-day official visit, which had been postponed last November owing to health reasons. At a press conference, he said that the United States and Cuba could show their support of the Contadora Group by not interfering in the Central American conflict.

Sepulveda summed up the Contadora Group's difficult 13 months of peace-seeking formulas, which on repeated occasions have averted the threat of regionalization of the conflict and interference by foreign interests. He stated that the current economic recession demands of Latin America and the Caribbean a disproportionate measure of sacrifice, and added that it would not be acceptable that industrialized nations base their economic recovery on the perpetuation of a fragile and unjust economic order.

Sepulveda said the international community has not given suitable joint answers to the problems afflicting us. We are living a lamentable paralysis on the part of international organizations in charge of maintaining peace and security, making the negotiations proceed at a slow pace when not actually bogged down. Sepulveda reminded that Latin America, the Caribbean, and recently Ecuador sought solutions through collective efforts to face up to the crisis, and the right of all nations to look for their own ways, free from internal [as received] intervention, had been reasserted. The Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America [Comite de Accion para el Desarrollo Economico y Social de Centroamerica -- CADESCA] was created to try to translate the manifestation of international support into a common effort of harmony that would include all nations involved in this situation or those with interests in the region, he added.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda said some hours later at a press conference that the United States, the Soviet Union, and Cuba should contribute to the normalization of the Central American situation by allowing national reconciliation processes to develop. He stressed the idea that each of these nations can reach economic, political, and social autonomy, thereby having the capacity of taking care of their interests without the influence of the superpowers, or Mexico, or Colombia, that is to say, to be totally autonomous.

Lloreda restated one of the main points of the Contadora Group, which calls for checking the Central American arms race, and no supply of arms from Europe or from any other place, because the donated war materiel generates a regional economic imbalance and increases political dependency. Lloreda warned that if we do not assume the responsibility of our principles, we will fall into the East-West confrontation. He added that Contadora is looking for long-term solutions in accordance with our historic consciousness.

The minister, when referring to the upcoming elections in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, said the elections will not solve all the problems, but he described them as a wonderful prospect for national reconciliation, which is advocated by the Contadora Group, with the principles of nonintervention and national sovereignty.

He felt that President Miguel de la Madrid's visits to Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina will reaffirm the Latin American peace efforts.

Lloreda rejected any attempt at reconciliation between the Contadora Group's strategies and those proposed by the U.S. commission headed by Henry Kissinger, because they are of different origin, one is Latin American and the other reaffirms the traditional U.S. policy in this region.

Lloreda announced that next week he will meet with the new Venezuelan foreign minister, Morales Paul, to examine the Contadora Group's progress and plans. On 29 February, the four foreign ministers will meet with the three commissions in Panama.

ECONOMIC, TRADE EXCHANGE TO INCREASE WITH USSR

FL281659 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1922 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- An official from the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat has said that Mexico and the Soviet Union have agreed to undertake efforts aimed at achieving greater diversification and a more dynamic increase in bilateral trade relations. The two countries signed a bilateral trade agreement of the closing meeting of the Mexico-USSR Joint Commission of Economic and Trade Cooperation. The agreement lists products that Mexico and the Soviet Union are able to add to the items traded between them.

Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, under secretary for economic matters for the Foreign Relations Secretariat, and Viktor Ivanov, Soviet deputy minister of trade, both expressed their assurance that future bilateral trade relations will be strengthened. The heads of the two delegations indicated that the present trade relations do not encompass the potential of the two nations.

The Mexican delegation was interested in whether the Soviet Union would consider importing industrial valves and Mexican produced Christmas trees [petroleum separating component], which are two of the products within the trade package. It was also announced that in the near future a group of Mexican specialists will visit the Soviet Union in order to expand trade exchange even more.

PEMEX DIRECTOR DISCUSSES CONTROL OF OIL PRICES

FL281430 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex General Director Ramon Beteta has stated that the economic and strategic importance of the international flow of petroleum has always kept the price of oil from being determined by supply and demand.

At a round-table conference on petroleum from a long-range energy perspective being held at the Mexico City College, Beteta said that supply and demand place limits on the actions of petroleum producers, whether they are multinational enterprises or sovereign nations. He stated that it is in the interest of all petroleum-exporting countries to maintain their control over oil prices and to be aware that losing control would mean running the risk of losing a significant part of the income implicit in the present price of petroleum.

Beteta added that last year's oil-price crisis increased the awareness of this fact and that is has been possible to make the North Sea producers more responsive to the search for greater price stability. He stated that the OPEC initiative toward the USSR should be viewed with satisfaction and approval.

In 1983, crude oil exports were maintained at the same level as in 1982 and production dropped 2 percent. In 1984, Pemex will not increase its crude oil exports. It will maintain the limit imposed by the Mexican Government of 1.5 million barrels daily, he added.

Beteta stated that export restrictions are being maintained despite the increased demand for Mexican crude, which reflects Mexico's strong position in the market. This position is due -- among other factors -- to Mexico's privileged geographic location on the Atlantic basin and the Gulf of Mexico. The Mexican trading position also has been strengthened by the recent demand for heavy crude, especially in U.S. markets.

Beteta stated that the limit placed on our exports has directly affected the nature and vigor of the economic adjustment program adopted by the present government. The magnitude of our sacrifice is reflected not only in unused crude oil production capacity but also in the total volume of national resources that remain idle.

He stated that the notable expansion of the Mexican oil industry during the last half of the 1970's and the first years of the present decade was linked to the increasing strategic dependence of the nation's economy on oil. Both public finances and the balance of payments are today critically dependent on oil. Nevertheless, the Mexican production structure is still relatively diversified, and therefore one of the basic goals of President De la Madrid's economic policy is to continue the diversification of economic activity, Beteta stressed.

He also pointed out that fact that Mexico's goal must be to maintain its ties with OPEC. These relations should lead to the maintenance of the control that the oil-exporting countries have over prices and to the long-range stabilization of the international oil market.

With regard to prices, Beteta said that in recent years Mexico has concentrated on the short range. Cyclical fluctuations in the demand for oil, speculative inventory movements, and uncertainty regarding the level of supply forced price adjustments, with the risk being run that these adjustments would be made in a disorderly fashion.

PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID ADDRESSES WORKERS CONGRESS

FL282224 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1500 GMT 28 Feb 84

[By Luis Bojorquez]

[Text] Mexico City, Feb 28 (NOTIMEX) -- The Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] held its 100th national congress over a 3-day period. It was restated at the congress that the ties which unite the labor sector with the government sector remain strong -- it could not be any other way -- even though some soothsayers had rumored that owing to the crisis, a split had developed between the two sectors and that this would be evident at the national congress.

Mexico's president attended the opening session, which these same soothsayers described as a mere political courtesy, but, in the end, it was the confirmation of the unity felt by all, over the fundamental principles of the Mexican revolution, as long as -- as the president stated -- our political doctrine agrees with the fundamental values we believe in: national independence, individual as well as collective freedoms, human rights, and democracy.

President De la Madrid also asked CTM members to follow the road of revolutionary nationalism [nacionalismo revolutionario] in order to reaffirm our principles, to study our performance, and to correct any deviations. In this way -- based on the revolution -- he said, national unity, which is not fictional, can be consolidated. He added that class struggle should be nothing but an abstract idea, and that there should be unity around the national principles which must keep the revolution alive, current, and pure.

As expected, there were also speeches on the question of whether a marked fall in the workers' purchasing power -- making the recession worse and affecting our deteriorated economy -- would bring about a demand for an increase in minimum wages before June which, in any case, is within the workers' justified demands. Because they are justified these demands cannot be considered symptoms that matters are not taking the correct course.

Senator Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, a PRI leader, gave a speech the next day before the workers plenum. He stated that there cannot be any national development if it is based on deviations, reactionary venting, or individual errors, and he warned that despite adversities our values will enable us to overcome the crisis and maintain the nation's integrity and democratic freedom. He also said that PRI leaders felt encouraged by the calm and thorough analysis that the CTM made with the clear intention of strengthening the party's majority. This statement represented a determination to continue a march that has always existed between the party in power and the workers union and which is the foundation of the workers congress and of that very sector. In saying this, the fissures that were said to exist were covered.

Fidel Velazquez, the workers' main leader, after thanking Lugo Verduzco for attending, said that the CTM will continue to fight for power in order to keep the principles of the revolution current. He noted that, although the crisis is a risk in itself, it is also an opportunity to test the true nature of Mexico's social organizations. Velazquez also reaffirmed his conviction that the PRI is the workers' party, that is to say, the party of the majority, and thus there has never existed even the smallest intention of deviating from the designated road. He added: As can be seen, with the strengthening of ties between the government and the workers, a firm dismissal is given to certain pressure groups that believed that the present economic situation was fertile ground to recover privileges or regress in areas where certain advances had been made in what experts described as a state economy.

Nevertheless, it must be said, today more than ever before, that we must remain alert, because the use of rumors as a destabilizing weapon is in fashion and although some of the rumors are truly wild, others, with half truths and visions of doom, can cause more danger than we can imagine. This is why the time has come for serious matters to be aired openly by the properly designated people, Velazquez noted.

There is no reason to fear criticism, he added, when it is done in good faith, because it is necessary, as President De la Madrid has said, to maintain, at all costs, national unity, and by so doing, reiterating that our system is good. Although we are living in a difficult period, it is still possible to count on the means to come out ahead. We also should not forget that the crisis is not exclusively Mexico's, but is worldwide and that at international forums the world powers have been asked for a solution because if one is not produced, future consequences can be expected. He concluded: To keep on giving the reactionary elements a platform on which to present themselves, bringing a sensationalist taint to the discussion table on matters that have been surmounted, is not what we could precisely call a patriotic attitude.

NEW PAN LEADER MADERO STATES PARTY POLICY

PA222136 Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 18 Feb 84 pp 1, 9

[By Maria Teresa García Guerra]

[Text] In his first formal news conference as leader of the National Action Party [PAN], Pablo Emilio Madero said that his party is not drifting to the left or to the right, but that it will be consistent with the positions it has always defended in favor of the people. He denied that he was defending the interests of the businessmen. Madero added that the blue and white [party colors] is not subsidized in any way, and that it is still growing. Speaking with journalists for 2 hours, he said among other things that democracy has been receding, and that it is important that an elected ruler not govern for his supporters, his office, or the members of his party; he must govern for everyone.

Madero added that democracy is in crisis, and cited the example of what happened in Yucatan, which was "the result of not having respected the will of the people. The people wanted change, and the system is paying for ignoring the will of the Mexican people." He said the PRI lost the opportunity to be a party to vote for and respect by continuing to steal votes and trucking in voters, not playing with its own forces. This is the way the federal government threw away the opportunity to strengthen the ruling party and began to regress. It is time for the people to choose their leaders in peace. The vote must be respected with honesty. Otherwise, there will be violence.

Madero also discussed political reforms, saying that real reforms are urgently needed, and that the popular will must be respected. He added that Articles 3 and 130 of the Constitution should be changed, because under the former parents and teachers have the right to seek protection [ampararse] in education. Under the latter, he said, the separation of church and state is correct, but one must take into consideration that a young man does not stop being a Mexican citizen just because he wants to be a priest.

Regarding his position, Pan president Madero said that he will respect the agreements of the party plenum and demand respect for his right to have access to both television and radio. "I will respect the principles of the party," he said, "and the agreements of the leadership; and my actions will always be for the benefit of the blue and white and Mexico."

He added that the PAN is and will continue to be a truly democratic party. It will fight to eliminate class distinctions. It will not defend the capitalists, but the popular classes, common welfare and, above all, those who have the least. Mexico must be a country where every man and the complete man is respected.

Madero promised to give himself fully to his party: "My message is that I want a change in the leadership and complete respect for the people's will. Let the authorities understand this and change their course. The PAN does not want to be the opposition. It does not seek power for the sake of power, but to establish common welfare and transform the society from savage to good."

He added that this country "is savage" for anyone who is unemployed, for anyone who is bothered by the corruption of government officials, for the worker who is forced to become a member of a party, et cetera.

BARLETTA GAINS ENDORSEMENTS OF CANDIDACY

UNADE Proclaims Support

PA282119 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Democratic Revolutionary Party, the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and the Republican Party officially proclaimed Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, Eric Arturo Delvalle, and Dr Roderick Esquivel as candidates for president, first vice president, and second vice president, respectively, amid the great enthusiasm of their respective conventions.

After the conventions, thousands of Panamanians carrying slogans and banners of the parties of the National Democratic Union, UNADE, went to Santa Ana Plaza, which proved to be much too small for the thousands of citizens who wanted to show their support for the ticket of triumph.

With this event, UNADE has promoted its electoral campaign throughout the country, supported by the candidates for legislators, mayors, and representatives, who will try to garner as much of the citizens' support as possible so that the May and June elections will crown the total triumph of those who want to promote national development and oppose the regressive actions of politicians who have not changed their policies for 15 years.

The presence of youths of the UNADE parties was noticeable, indicating that a large majority of the 500,000 Panamanians who will be voting for the first time will favor those who have specified government plans: formulas to counter unemployment, housing programs of social interest and technical assistance, and the use of modern methods to boost production in our country.

On Wednesday, 29 February, at midnight the parties will present their documents with their slate of candidates to the Electoral Tribunal, thus fulfilling all the requisites of the Electoral Code.

FRAMPO Gives Backing

PA281718 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Feb 84 p A-1

[Excerpt] The Popular Broad Front Party (FRAMPO) has elected a new directorate and has endorsed the ticket headed by Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta for president of the Republic and Eric Arturo Delvalle and Dr Roderick Esquivel for first and second vice presidents, respectively.

These decisions were made yesterday afternoon at the FRAMPO national convention at the Presidente Theater in Panama City. Delegates from all over the country attended.

At the convention, several FRAMPO leaders harshly attacked Dr Renato Pereira and Dr Jose Manual Castulovich, former outstanding figures of that political organization.

The delegates elected Professor Miguel Montiel as their new president and Dr Alvaro Arosemena G. as secretary general. Dr Arosemena G. welcomed the National Democratic Union (UNADE) members when they arrived at the theater, where they were jubilantly received by the FRAMPO members.

Addressing the event, UNADE candidate Dr Ardito Barletta reiterated that his administration's top priority will be the creation of new jobs and the construction of more houses. He stressed that FRAMPO is a young party with an ideology of its own. He confirmed his intent to wage an intense struggle on behalf of Panama. The new FRAMPO directorate members were sworn in at the convention. FRAMPO follows the Torrijist government ideology and process.

ESQUIVEL CHOSEN PRT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA281827 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Feb 84 p 2

[By Antonio Graell Flores]

[Text] "I accept this candidacy as an instrument for the unity of the Panamanian people, because I believe that achieving this unity is the most important prerequisite to governing the people," said Dr Jose Renan Esquivel when the political convention of the Revolutionary Party of the Workers (PRT) nominated him as its presidential candidate. The plenum also nominated Carmen Miro and Dr Carlos Perez Herrera as candidates for the first and second vice presidencies, respectively.

Referring to the PRT, Dr Jose Renan Esquivel said that "the people need the dedication and effort of their women, the work and wisdom of their peasants, the firm determination of their Indians, the militancy and mobilization of their workers, the knowledge and thoughts of their countrymen who have studied a profession, the enthusiasm and idealism of the young, the sentiments and talents of their artists, the experience and perseverance of their retired workers who have contributed to the creation of the country we have today, and the creativity of every Panamanian -- and the people have all that. The people need their own country, and that is why the United People's Front was born: so the people may struggle together before, during, and after the elections."

Finally, Dr Esquivel declared that the Front will advance, guiding the people toward a fatherland free of poverty, oppression, and exploitation, flying high the banners of democracy, national sovereignty, economic independence, and social justice.

COMMUNIST PARTY APPROVES PRESIDENTIAL TICKET

PA281923 Panama City YA in Spanish 27 Feb 84 pp 16, 2

[Text] Yesterday during a spirited convention, the People's Party nominated its candidates for the 6 May elections. They are: Carlos Del Cid for president, Cesar De Leon for first vice president, and Julio Bermudez for second vice president. Many foreign guests and representatives of the Panamanian political parties attended the event, which was held at the Journalists Club in Panama City.

The communists approved the presidential ticket with shouts of "Torrijos is present, Del Cid for president; we have advanced, the struggle continues." The Panamanian communists decided not to support the ticket proposed by UNADE [National Democratic Union], because the UNADE does not allow the participation of the groups that made the revolutionary process possible and, to the contrary, is "gathering" the forces that the process was created to fight against." [quotation marks as published]

Del Cid is an experienced attorney, De Leon is a professor of philosophy and history, and Julio Bermudez is the secretary general and founder of the National Confederation of Peasant Settlements, CONAC.

REPORTAGE ON CONTADORA MEETING IN PANAMA CITY

Foreign Ministers Comment

PA280435 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The Contadora Group foreign ministers today began a 2-day meeting in Panama City to evaluate their efforts for peace and the situation of the Central American countries. At the same time, the technical team made up of the Contadora Group vice foreign ministers and their Central American colleagues began a 3-day meeting with the work commissions. It was reported that the commissions are working on a draft that will serve as a basis for a peace treaty for the troubled region that should be ready by 30 April.

Meanwhile, President Jorge Illueca and the Colombian, Mexican, Venezuelan, and Panamanian foreign ministers, all representatives of the Contadora Group, discussed the Group's advances and future. RPC-Television interviewed Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, who said the following:

[Begin recording] [Lloreda] We are here reviewing the entire process in the pleasant company of the new Venezuelan foreign minister, who is attending for the first time. I believe that it would be premature to give you details of our decisions. Perhaps after tomorrow's meeting we can give you some details. Meanwhile, I would like to send greetings to the Panamanian people. I am very glad to be here again.

[Unidentified reporter] When will you tell us about the Contadora Group?

[Lloreda] Tomorrow, gladly. At the end of the meeting. [end recording]

Meanwhile President Jorge Illueca, when asked about the Panamanian position regarding the Contadora Group, said:

[Begin recording] [Illueca] We are playing an active, dynamic role. We are always seeking dialogue.

[Unidentified reporter] Is a signing of the Contadora peace agreement imminent?

[Illueca] Well, I believe that the important thing is that we are working on the basis of a peace platform. I would rather have the foreign ministers themselves give you more information at the end of the meetings. [end recording]

After lunch and a meeting with the president of the Republic, the new Venezuelan foreign minister, Isidro Morales Paul, referred to his country's position on Contadora. He said:

[Begin recording] [Morales Paul] The new Venezuelan Government's position toward Contadora is one of firm support. Contadora is an effort toward peace. Therefore, it requires and deserves the support of all civilized countries. The Contadora Group's efforts have been backed by the United States, the Security Council, the OAS, and all the world's leaders. Contadora stands for dialogue, and only through dialogue can we reach viable solutions for worldwide peace in a civilized way.

[Unidentified reporter] What is Venezuela's position regarding the conflict in Central America, in which the USSR and Cuba are directly participating?

[Morales Paul] Undoubtedly, it would be desirable for the conflict to be removed from the framework of the East-West conflict.

[Reporter] One last question. What are your first impressions of your meeting with new Panamanian President Jorge Illueca and his views on Contadora?

[Morales Paul] I have a magnificent impression of President Illueca because I have known him from the time that he was ambassador to Venezuela. I have the best opinion of his efforts for the peace for which we are all working together. [end recording]

Illueca Meets With Ministers

PA281527 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Panamanian President Jorge Illueca has reaffirmed the decision of the Panamanian Government and people to promote the Contadora Group's efforts. Illueca and Foreign Ministers Rodrigo Lloreda of Colombia, Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico, Isidro Morales Paul of Venezuela, and Oyden Ortega of Panama assessed the progress and future prospects of the Contadora efforts.

In his first meeting with the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group member nations, President Illueca received a detailed report outlining procedures established thus far to achieve a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis. The foreign ministers, who began the 13th round of talks in the capital with the participation of the new Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Isidro Morales Paul, expressed their satisfaction at finding in President Jorge Illueca a distinguished supporter of the Contadora Group and a staunch advocate of its pacification efforts.

Dr Illueca in turn reaffirmed the resolve of the Panamanian Government and people to promote the Contadora Group's diplomatic efforts in order to strengthen the progress that has been achieved. The president of the republic and the Contadora Group foreign ministers have predicted positive results from the ministerial and technical meetings that began today in Panama, where international attention is focused.

Honduras Proposes Agenda

PA281949 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] In its proposed agenda for the Contadora Group working committees, which started meeting yesterday in this capital, Honduras will submit a proposal to promote democratization, to establish military equilibrium in the region, and to encourage the cooperation of all Central American nations. This was disclosed to LA PRENSA by Dr Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran representative to the Contadora Group political affairs committee.

Hernandez Alcerro delivered his government's proposal at the Montecarlo Room of the Continental Hotel to His Excellency Carlos Lopez Contreras, the Honduran ambassador in Panama, who is also an adviser to the committee, and who was accompanied by Carlos Paz Navarro, the embassy's charge d'affaires. Referring to the proposal, Hernandez Alcerro said that on political matters his country will ask the political affairs committee to investigate the processes of national reconciliation, elections, and the promotion and defense of human rights.

He added that the reports submitted by the Central American governments on their respective internal situations would be complemented by visits to their capitals to seek information from the peasants; workers; political, business, religious, and professional sectors; ethnic minorities; and human rights groups.

Asked what the proposal contained on matters of security, he explained that it proposes the negotiation of a policy for the control and reduction of arms and armed forces in order to restore the military equilibrium of the region. On this point, and after the conclusion of the initial talks among the five countries, Honduras will propose fixing maximum limits of arms and troops for each country, criteria to reduce foreign military advisers, and establishing international mechanisms to control and to eliminate illegal arms traffic, subversion, and terrorism.

Referring to economic and social matters, he said that Honduras seeks the revitalization of the Central American integration process and its reorganization to meet the crisis affecting the region, because the economic crisis must be resolved with new projects that give new life to the econo[illegible] and create new social opportunities.

Bulletin on Meeting

PA290033 Panama Domestic Service in Spanish 2007 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Official bulletin issued to newsmen at the Panama Hilton press room in Panama City, on 28 February, at the conclusion of Contadora Group meetings -- read by News Director Demetrio Olaciregui]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, which comprise the Contadora Group, met in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from 27 to 28 February 1984. Doctor Isidro Morales Paul, the new Venezuelan foreign minister, participated in the meetings for the first time and was cordially welcomed by his peers.

The four foreign ministers met with Panamanian President Jorge Illueca, who reasserted his government's enthusiastic support for the peace efforts and recalled his personal involvement with the Contadora process since its initiation.

The ministers closely examined the Central American situation, reiterated their advocacy of the principles that inspire the Contadora Group's actions, and stated their decision to exert themselves in searching for a stable and durable peace for the region. Nevertheless, they admitted that attaining this goal will require strict adherance to the document on execution norms, which was approved on 9 January 1984.

The technical group fulfilled its coordination task during the foreign ministers' fifth joint meeting and presented its report by the established deadline. It gives details of the work carried out since 31 January, with the active participation of the five Central American countries and the four Contadora Group countries, in the areas of security and political affairs, and economic-social matters.

They also observed with interest the progress achieved in electoral matters by several countries of the area, and stressed the importance of using democratic means to achieve internal reconciliation in the countries and to achieve regional detente.

They stressed growing international cooperation to counter the grave social and economic problems, which form the basis of the Central American crisis.

They particularly examined proposals made in this respect by the ILO, the Committee of Action and Support for Central American Economic and Social Development [Comite de Accion de Apoyo al Desarrollo Economico y Social de Centro America], and the Pan American Health Organization.

The foreign ministers stated their satisfaction that the first meeting of SELA's Committee of Action and Support for Central American Economic and Social Development will be held on 1-6 March 1984 in Mexico City and wished the committee success. The organization is considered necessary to coordinate economic and social cooperation in the Central American region.

The foreign ministers agreed that the technical group's next meeting with the work commissions will be held from 19-25 March and 23-29 April. They also confirmed that the sixth joint meeting of the Central American foreign ministers and the Contadora Group foreign ministers will be held on 30 April.

The foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela expressed their gratitude to the people and Government of Panama for once again offering their cordial hospitality.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT REACTS TO ATTACK ON NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA281757 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The National Security Council has taken several stringent measures in view of the attack last week by members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] against a Rural Police patrol in the border area near Conventillos. The Costa Rican Government has suspended its attendance at the Mixed Commission meetings, because its activities are contrary to the Costa Rican Government's good will and friendly stance.

Costa Rican Ambassador to Managua Jesus Fernandez has been recalled immediately in order to assess, together with the foreign ministry, the situation brought about by this new armed attack on our territory. It was reported that mortar shells and other heavy weapons fire penetrated more than 1 km into Costa Rica.

Costa Rica will present the Contadora Group with the text of the protest that has been sent to the Nicaraguan Government regarding this new armed attack, so that Contadora will learn of the scope and seriousness of the attack, as well as of Costa Rica's critical situation arising from the Sandinist Army's threat.

A full report on the incident will be sent to the Costa Rican OAS representative, to be read at the next OAS general assembly session, so that this information can be added to the record that Costa Rica has opened in this regional organization. The possibility has not been discounted that Costa Rica might appeal to the OAS for help if this type of incident is repeated.

The National Security Council has given specific instructions to the Public Security Ministry to reinforce vigilance along the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border, in order to repel any attack by the EPS.

Costa Rican Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar pointed out that the shots, which originated from Nicaragua, came from areas where the EPS has, in addition to high-caliber machine guns, mortars and other heavy weapons.

Arauz Comments on OAS Appeal

PA281523 Paris AFP in Spanish 1451 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] San Jose, 28 Feb (AFP) -- Armando Arauz, second vice president of the Republic, announced on behalf of the Security Council last night that Costa Rica will also take the matter of the Nicaraguan attack to the OAS. Costa Rica's ambassador to the OAS has been instructed to give a copy of the protest lodged with the Nicaraguan Government to the OAS, he noted. Arauz explained that "we will resort" to the OAS if "grave" situations -- such as Thursday's attack -- recur, and warned that the border "will be strengthened" to repel any attack or aggression from Nicaragua. Costa Rica "will not permit" part of its territory to be under the control of Nicaragua or within the reach of the weapons of that country," Arauz concluded.

MORERA REPORTEDLY TO TAKE OVER FINANCE MINISTRY

PA281552 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] It has been reported that Porfirio Morera Batres will be the new finance minister and will replace Federico Vargas Peralta who, it has been rumored, will become executive president of the Costa Rican Central Bank. It has also been reported that Carlos Manuel Castillo will resign his post at the Central Bank in the next few weeks in order to participate in the political struggle. He will seek the presidential nomination of the National Liberation Party for the 1986 elections. Morera was finance minister during former President Daniel Oduber's administration.

BRIEFS

NEW SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR -- Sigfrido Nunez, the new ambassador of El Salvador, has presented his credentials to President Luis Alberto Monge at the Presidential Palace. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Feb 84 p 3 PA]

EL SALVADOR

PDC APPOINTS NEW VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA282315 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Excerpt] Last night, following the Central Electoral Council's [CCE] decision to annul Pablo Mauricio Alvergue's candidacy, the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party [PDC] met to appoint (Rodolfo Castillo Claramount) as its new vice presidential candidate. At 1000 today the PDC officially presented (Castillo Claramount's) documents to the CCE. This was followed by a noon press conference at the party's headquarters.

REBELS ATTACK TRAIN CARRYING POLICE, CIVILIANS

Casualties Reported

PA281550 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1434 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- At least 30 civilians and more than 20 policemen may have been killed in a Salvadoran guerrilla attack on a train near the township of Aguilares, north of this capital. Military sources of that township said that the rebel attack occurred at 1700 local time yesterday (2300 GMT) near San Antonio canton of Rio Sucio, 40 km north of this capital. According to these reports, rebels posted on both sides of the tracks placed dynamite charges on the rails to cause the derailment. The train, which was going from San Salvador to the northwestern part of the country, was carrying many passengers and between 20 and 25 treasury policemen.

Military sources in Aguilares told ACAN-EFE by telephone that the rebels attacked the convoy with machine guns and hand grenades. "The policemen got in among the people, and that is why so many civilians were killed," the source added.

All of the soldiers who were protecting the train, as well as approximately 30 civilians -- although "there may have been more dead" -- were killed, according to military sources in Aguilares.

Apparently the rebels who attacked the train were the same ones who engaged in fierce clashes with the Army at Atiocoyo farm near the site of yesterday's attack on the train. According to official reports, after staging their attack, and while the bodies were still scattered on the ground, the rebels "harangued" the townspeople in a rally and explained the reason for their operation.

Approximately 10 wounded civilians are being treated at the Red Cross post in Aguilares, and their condition is not yet known. All the bodies had been removed from the tracks by early morning. This is the first time that the Salvadoran rebels have attacked a train in the northern part of the country. All their previous attacks on trains have been limited to the eastern part of the country. The site of the attack is near Chalatenango Department, in whose northern region the rebels have their second most important bastion.

Further on Attack, Casualties

PA282026 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1615 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Report by Nelson Lopez]

[Text] Two cargo trains that were coming from Metapan were derailed near the Nueva Concepcion Station in San Antonio canton, San Pablo Tacachico. According to the reports, engines No 861 and 851, with 15 cars each, were derailed with explosives and later attacked with rifle fire by FMLN members.

A total of 27 people were killed during this action: 19 Treasury Police agents and 8 civilians. Apparently, the latter were passengers who were in a passenger car in one of the trains. It has been learned that six of the engineers were injured. An additional, undetermined number of people were also injured. As we have said, a total of 27 people died, and reportedly 1 of the treasury policemen of the 20 guarding the 2 trains was captured by the leftists and taken to some undetermined location.

The attack was perpetrated yesterday afternoon, near the Nueva Concepcion Station, in San Antonio canton, San Pablo Tacachico, La Libertad Department. The two cargo trains were carrying cement and gasoline.

COPREFA Issues Bulletin

PA282017 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador]

[Text] The FMLN has killed 10 peasants in an attack on a train. Three children, three women, and four men, including an elderly one, all of them peasants, were killed by an FMLN band that yesterday afternoon attacked with machine-gun fire and hand grenades a train that was carrying innocent civilians. One child, seven women, and six men, all of them civilians, were injured during this indiscriminate terrorist attack staged near (Los Zapoyos) canton and village, in Santa Ana jurisdiction, 60 km northwest of San Salvador.

The train, which also carried fuel, was being guarded by 20 Treasury Police agents, 8 of whom died heroically while defending the lives of the peasants inside the train. Seven policemen were injured, three escaped unharmed, and two others are missing. This murder is a barbaric action, condemnable from any standpoint. It shows with dramatic clarity the criminal nature of the terrorism that operates in our territory and kills our people.

Farabundo Marti Reports Attack

PA282011 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 1830 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Here is a preliminary report on a new victory of our revolutionary battalions. Our guerrilla units have dealt a new blow to the plans of the puppet army, which was trying to launch an operation in northern San Salvador and La Libertad Departments.

According to preliminary reports sent to Radio Farabundo Marti by Companeros Commanders Misael Gallardo and Chano Guevara, yesterday at 1730 revolutionary units from the Carlos Arias Battalion ambushed a military convoy aboard a FENADESAL [not further identified] train traveling between Aguilares and Antiocoyo. The train was carrying troops whose mission was to carry an operation in the area. The train also carried war supplies and three gasoline tanks for use by the dictatorship's Air Force planes. When our forces received the order to open fire, most of the enemy troops had already climbed down from the railroad cars. A 45-minute battle ensued.

While this battle was taking place, another train carrying civilians arrived. This train and its cars was used in a cowardly fashion by the enemy troops as a shield. Following heavy fighting, in which civilians became victims, the enemy troops were forced to flee in disarray. Our fighters recovered 20 G-3 rifles.

Attention, Salvadoran people. Our units of the Carlos Arias Battalion recovered [passage indistinct]. (?Seven) troops laid down their arms. Those who were wounded were immediately treated by our doctors and then released. The preliminary report indicates that our forces recovered over 5,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and a large number of combat boots. Also, our forces immediately destroyed the three fuel tanks intended for the planes that bomb the defenseless civilian population.

Commanders Misael Gallardo and Chano Guevara have reported that they will send Radio Farabundo Marti the final war bulletin on this new victorious operation of our revolutionary battalions.

FARABUNDO MARTI REPORTS GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

PA290211 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] In the Francisco Sanchez eastern front, the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade continues to dislodge the paramilitary men from their positions. On 27 February, units from the popular army dislodged paramilitary men from their positions in the towns of Uluazapa and Comacaran, northeast of San Miguel. Other FMLN guerrilla units seized full control of a section of the Pan-American Highway in El Triunfo, halting traffic to eastern El Salvador. We also have reports indicating that our forces yesterday gained control of a section of the military route from San Miguel to the Honduran border. Hours after our fighters had gained control of the road, troops from the San Miguel and Morazan garrisons arrived and heavy fighting ensued. We will report on the fighting in future broadcasts.

ZAMORA DISCUSSES U.S. POLICY WITH VENCEREMOS

PA281240 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Interview with Ruben Zamora, member of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission, with an unidentifical reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Companero Ruben Zamora, the specter of defeat seems to have returned to the White House in the past few days. Shultz has said that unless military aid is increased, the Salvadoran Army will collapse. Senators and military experts are insisting that the dictatorship's army is losing the war and that the Reagan administration policy's for the Central American region is a disaster. In reality, what is the situation of the Reagan administration's policy for Central America?

[Zamora] The real objective of the Reagan administration's policy in El Salvador is to try to prevent a catastrophe before the November elections in the United States. If the government's troops are defeated, the Reagan administration will lose El Salvador. The Reagan administration is going to continue aiding the Salvadoran Government and Army until November. Thus, the plan is to give the govenrment and the Army all the aid they need so that the Army does not collapse. In my opinion the Reagan administration policy's for the region is in crisis. Obviously, no matter how much aid they receive, nothing can lift the troops' morale. Besides, the politicians, the military, and the oligarchy are stealing the aid that the United States is sending. Despite this reality, the Reagan administration continues to send more military and economic aid. In this respect, I think, that the Reagan administration's policy for Central America resembles a case of drug addiction: No matter how much it hurts him, he still wants more.

I also want to point out that this policy is causing the Reagan administration serious internal problems. The U.S. Government knows all about the corruption in El Salvador. A few days ago it was made public in the United States [words indistinct] millions are being stolen from the aid that the United States is sending to the Magana government. For example, the United States gives $10 for each soldier, but the soldiers get only $3; the other $7 go to the pockets of politicians and colonels.

In sum, I would say that the Reagan administration's policy for Central America is yielding no results and is facing serious opposition in the United States. Reagan is facing a deadlock that could precipitate intervention.

[Reporter] Companero Zamora, President Reagan has submitted the so-called Jackson Plan to Congress, a multimillion-dollar military plan to oppose our people's struggle. What are the chances for its success?

[Zamora] I don't think this plan is of any use to our peoples or to the U.S. Government. In the first place, Reagan will not get the $9 billion he is asking for. The U.S. Congress will not approve the plan, especially during an election year and when domestic development programs are being slashed. Congress will not approve the funds for the plan, and without funds the plan cannot be carried out. The same thing happened to the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Reagan asked for $800 million and it took more than a year for Congress to approve the funds. And when it did, it was with a series of restrictions. The plan was not approved as Reagan had originally submitted it.

Second, supposing that Congress will approve the $9 billion, which I am sure it will not, the plan will not work in El Salvador [words indistinct] because the Reagan administration does not understand the problems of El Salvador and of Central America. The structural changes of democracy cannot be bought with dollars. Social changes cannot be made with dollars either. [Words indistinct] the famous welfare plan for San Vicente, which will cost over $30 milion, a plan just for San Vicente Department. [Words indistinct] the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador is considering revising the welfare plan, which has failed and must be carried out in a different way. We are of the opinion that the plan is not going to work in solving the problems of El Salvador, and that Reagan is not going to obtain the money.

[Reporter] Companero Ruben Zamora, this morning we heard from the Voice of America that a campaign in favor of the Salvadoran oligarchy is in progress [words indistinct]. What is the real situation in the United States regarding Reagan's foreign policy? What are the sectors [words indistinct] opposed to the Reagan policy [words indistinct]?

[Zamora] The opposition to Reagan's (?insane) policy toward El Salvador has increased in the United States. We can identify five large sectors [words indistinct] opposed to Reagan's policy. [passage indistinct] There is a group of Democratic and Republican congressmen opposed to the Reagan policy who are criticizing this policy [words indistinct] economic and military aid that Reagan is giving El Salvador. [passage indistinct] Catholic Church officials [words indistinct] have been to Congress to testify that the Reagan policy is not working in El Salvador [words indistinct] seek a solution through dialogue and negotiations. Very important work in this respect is being done in U.S. churches. The subject of El Salvador is mentioned in the sermons of priests and Protestant ministers opposing military aid to the Salvadoran regime and denouncing human rights violations in El Salvador. Trade unions are another important sector. Although they had maintained a position in favor of the Reagan administration regarding El Salvador, they have recently reversed their positon. At its recent meeting in Florida, the AFL-CIO stressed the need for negotiations in El Salvador to resolve the conflict. At the same time, the AFL-CIO said that it disapproves of the military aid that Reagan is sending to the Salvadoran dictatorship.

A fourth important American group opposed to this policy is the intellectuals. These are university students and faculty members, and people who write in newspapers and magazines. They are constantly opposing the Reagan administration's policy [words indistinct] strong opposition expressed by the U.S. Central American Relations Commission, [Comision sobre las Relacionies Estados Unidos-Centro America], which is totally opposed to the Reagan policy in the area.

I also believe that the minorities, too, have expressed their opposition, that is, the blacks and the Latins disapprove of Reagan's policy. For instance, there is a U.S. organization called LULAC, which is the League of United Latin American Citizens. [passage indistinct] We can say that U.S. citizens do not want to be dragged by President Reagan into an interventionist adventure. U.S. citizens do not want to assist a military regime that has murdered over 45,000 innocent civilians in El Salvador. U.S. citizens really want peace and respect for our peoples in Central America.

[Reporter] Companero Ruben Zamora, a few days ago the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission of which you are a member stated that the resignation of Richard Stone as roving U.S. ambassador in Central America was one more act in the farce of Reagan's alleged peace policy for Central America. Someone called Harry Shlaudemann has been appointed as Stone's replacement. Could you tell us something about his background?

[Zamora] Shlaudemann claims that his political background has no links to the CIA, the U.S. espionage office, or to the Kissinger commission. His most important position was the one that he held in Chile at the beginning of the seventies, during President Allende's constitutional rule, when he was posted to the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile. According to investigations conducted by the U.S. Congress, which were released in a report called the Church Committee Report, named after a senator, it is clear that Shlaudemann had a hand in the efforts to topple the Allende government. Shlaudemann was involved in the transfer of funds from the CIA to political parties that opposed Allende, active in handing out money to newspapers that opposed Allende, and had some ties with the military that toppled President Allende. In this sense, we can say that he is not a man of peace, but a man of war; he is not a man who favors democracy, but a man who was directly involved in a coup against a government that was constitutionally elected by its own people, as was the Allende government.

In other words, Shlaudemann's record shows that he is a hawk, as Americans would say, and that he is not a man who will seek peace in Central America. To summarize, I believe that with this change in roving ambassadors to Central America we are losing a comedian, Richard Stone, but winding up with a policeman.

GUATEMALA

FORMER PRESIDENTS DISCUSS ANTICOMMUNIST ALLIANCE

PA290154 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 7 Feb 84 p 15

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 6 Feb (SIAG, CERIGUA, and ENFOPRENSA) -- Generals Romeo Lucas Garcia and Kjell Eugenio Laugerud, former Guatemalan presidents, have met secretly with leaders of the foremost Guatemalan anticommunist organizations in an effort to form a large alliance to seize control of the government. Generals Laugerud Garcia and Lucas Garcia, who ruled Guatemala successively from 1974 to 1982, met last week in the U.S. city of Miami with Mario Sandoval Alarcon, head of the ultrarightist National Liberation Movement (MLN), and Lionel Sisniega Otero, of the Anticommunist Unification Party (PUA).

It has been learned that they discussed the possibility of forming a large anticommunist alliance in order to participate in the elections for a national Constituent Assembly in July, and then to appoint a provisional president. It is not known if any agreement was reached.

The meeting created suspense in political and government circles because such gatherings, in which military men who are displeased with General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores' regime have participated, have been previously described as leaning toward a coup.

Meanwhile, Pablo Monsanto, commander in chief of the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) of Guatemala, has stated that his movement is the foremost alternative to achieve victory and to seize power by developing a real, broad, flexible, and bold policy of alliances in order to form a national and international front in which most Guatemalans would feel represented.

During a lengthy statement at El Peten on the 21st anniversary of FAR's foundation, Monsanto said that "our main concern today is to develop the people's revolutionary war in order to be consistent with the interests of our revolution, of our people, and of all people in the area."

According to Monsanto, "It is impossible to have a revolution without the participation of the masses, but the masses cannot advance to a higher status unless there is a military development to motivate and support them." He added that "we must not dictate to the masses what the guerrilla movement should be doing in the political and military field."

Monsanto said that guerrillas cannot be expected to be armed detachments that can defend the rural population and neglect their military duties, because increasing territorial control and the size of the organization is not the ultimate goal; we have to defeat the government's Army in the military field with legitimate guerrilla action, so that large sectors of the population will continue to join the armed struggle and carry out minor rebel actions, leading to a total rebellion in the end.

Regarding the military situation, Monsanto said that the dispersion of the guerrilla forces has made the territorial presence and influence of the guerrillas possible, but this has limited development of the forces and has even caused policy problems affecting the revolutionary movement.

"Starting with a concentration of forces and resources, and utilizing a genuine guerrilla tactic, we must carry out our offensive military plans, fighting the enemy on the fronts where he moves, and preparing our plans to defeat the enemy offensives. It is necessary to cease evading the offensives on our main war fronts. We must decide to face and defeat them," the guerrilla leader said.

Meanwhile, rebels and government troops clashed over the weekend near the village of Pojopon in Esquipulas Palo Gordo municipality, in the western department of San Marcos. A rebel was killed, according to the official version of the clash, which did not detail the action. The Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, one of four organizations belonging to the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, which operates in that zone, still has not made public its version.

GOVERNMENT CREATES DEPUTY HEAD OF STATE POST

PA280408 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Guatemalan Government today issued a law decree creating the post of deputy head of state in Guatemala. This information was revealed by Manuel Giron Tanchez, secretary general of the Presidency.

Giron Tanchez reported that the post would be assigned to Colonel Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, chief of the Army General Staff, when the Guatemalan head of state, General Oscar Mejia, is out of the country. The secretary general of the presidency pointed out that juridical basis for this appointment is in the government's fundamental statutes, and the post of deputy head of state will be occupied only during General Mejia Victores' absence.

BRIEFS

SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY LEADER -- Marco Antonio de Paz has been elected secretary general of the Social Christian Party. [Summary] [Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 23 Feb 84 PA]

HONDURAS

PINU SELECTS AGUILAR AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA290348 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p 5

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa -- Doctor Enrique Aguilar Cerrato is the Innovation and Unity Party, PINU, presidential candidate for the upcoming elections. Meanwhile, the party's new central directorate will be led by Doctor Miguel Andonie Fernandez. Andonie has offered to support Aguilar Cerrato's candidacy, which was approved unanimously. Aguilar Cerrato and Andonie Fernandez were elected during the assembly session that began Saturday and concluded Sunday. A delegate and an alternate delegate from each of the country's 18 departments attended the assembly session. Only the delegates were authorized to vote.

Aguilar Cerrato, former health minister and deputy of the National Constituent Assembly, was proposed as the PINU presidential candidate by the delegate of Cortes Department, Jesus Mejia Batres. The three presidential designates and the deputy candidates will be elected during a second national assembly, when the legally registered political parties are instructed to select them by the National Electoral Tribunal, TNE.

NICARAGUA

PROTEST NOTE TO U.S. AFTER BOATS SUNK BY MINES

PA291334 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Feb 84

["Protest note" sent by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on 28 February]

[Text] At 2245 on 24 February 1984, a Piranha-type speedboat given by your country's CIA to the counterrevolutionary forces that operate from Honduras and Costa Rica entered [Nicaragua] from Costa Rica. The boat penetrated as far as Barra El Bluff in Zelaya Department and attacked fuel storage tanks there with artillery and machine gun fire. The purpose of the 20-minute attack was to destroy the tanks, but the attackers did not succeed.

While returning to Costa Rica, the boat attacked two fishing boats, the "Aldo Echeverria" and the "Pescasa-15." This attack took place on the high seas, near the (Dita) Company installations. The damage sustained was light.

In passing by (Hontan Barra), the aggressor vessel clashed with a Sandinist Navy boat, but the results were insignificant.

The aggressor also left several mines in the El Bluff area. As a result, at 1243 on 25 February the fishing boat called "Pescasa-15" sank after hitting a mine at the Pescasa dock. Jaime Davis and Pedro La Fuente were injured on the occasion.

At 1900 on the same day, the fishing boat called "Pescasa-20" hit two mines while heading for the dock and was damaged accordingly. Seven people were wounded and two are missing as a result.

In view of the grave events cited herein, the Nicaraguan Government presents its most vigorous and most formal protest to your government, for these acts represent a dangerous and adventuristic escalation of the uninterrupted aggression that your government has been financing, organizing, and directing against our country for the past 2 years.

Such actions completely contradict the verbal statements of your government in support of the Contadora Group and its efforts to secure peace. In addition, these actions constitute the implementation of a military blockade that has been added to your government's efforts to effect an economic and political blockade against Nicaragua, in open violation of international law.

I take advantage of this opportunity to state my consideration and esteem to your excellency.

[Signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Foreign Minister

COMMENTATOR CRITICIZES GEN GORMAN'S REMARKS

PA280405 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Commentary by Carlos Chamorro Coronel: "Imperialism Maintains Its Aggressive Attitude Against Nicaragua"]

[Text] First it was Secretary of State Shultz; now it is General Paul Gorman's turn. In remarks to the U.S. Congress, Gorman, commander of the U.S. Southern Command at the Panama Canal, has once again charged that our country is responsible for the unrest in the region. This is not a new story. It is the same old song. The Reagan administration continues to try to torpedo the Contadora countries' great efforts to prevent the worsening of the conflict in the area.

The language of force and not of negotiation is the only one they know, as [Swedish] Prime Minister Palme said in reproaching them. On our part, as Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra said in Esteli, we will continue to make efforts so that maturity, civilized dialogue, and the political positions of the Contadora Group will prevail and honorable and just solutions can be found. This is our best reply to the arrogant remarks of the Pentagon's highfalutin' general.

MINISTER ADMITS ATTACK LAUNCHED FROM COSTA RICA

PA282217 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] San Jose -- Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon has confirmed that on 20 February the self-styled counterrevolutionary group, the Third Path Movement, attacked Nicaragua from the Costa Rican border area of Conventillos, when Solano Calderon was in the area. Calderon discovered that the attack was led by a man named Mario Aviles. The minister announced that the Rural Police will maintain its vigilance along the border with Nicaragua. He revealed that, 2 days after the attack, a Rural Police patrol was patroling the area dressed in olive drab and lacking official identification.

BORGE ON CONTRAS, ELECTIONS, EMERGENCY LAW

PA290253 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Feb 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Interior Minister Tomas Borge commented yesterday: "We are aware that counter-revolutionary activity will increase in the next few months." Efforts to unite the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] and ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] are an example of this escalation. He added that this is one of the demands the CIA is urging and that it will mean increased counterrevolutionary activity, which is doomed to failure from the start.

Tomas Borge met with a large group of foreign correspondents. He said that the counter-revolution has suffered many harsh blows. He said that the Contadora Group will exist despite the Reagan administration. He added: "We hope to continue to be the wall that will stop the attacks against the talks, whether Reagan is the U.S. President or not."

A newsman asked him if the decision to hold elections on 4 November had anything to do with the U.S. elections. He replied: "It was a coincidence. Anyway, we will defeat Reagan in Nicaragua. When the FSLN wins, Reagan will feel defeated; we are going to make him suffer in this defeat."

Borge told the newsmen that he hopes that Nicaragua Catholic leaders will adopt "an impartial, realistic, and mature attitude" toward the Nicaraguan electoral process. He said: "We hope that they will be concerned about the honesty of the elections, without expressing opinions about any specific party."

Borge said that the era of political bosses is over. "We are going to raise a revolutionary banner, and that will be the determining factor."

Regarding observers, Borge said: "These elections will be available for anyone to observe. Some will observe openly, others will do it through their usual methods like the CIA, which will be the main observer of our elections."

Borge, as Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction had done previously, said that the law on political emergency could be suspended at any time.

A newsman asked Borge about the other parties and their "objections" to the electoral process. Borge said that there will be more than 5,000 voting booths in the 4 November elections. "The problem is that some of those parties will get fewer than 5,000 votes and they fear that will be like playing a ridiculous role in the electoral process."

PSC SAYS ELECTORAL BILL MADE TO FIT FSLN

PA282215 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 84 pp 1, 14

[All quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Ths Social Christian Party of Nicaragua (PSC) today stated before the president of the State Council, Commander Carlos Nunez, that the electoral draft bill being discussed by the Council plenum "is made to fit the FSLN." Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez, Social Christian representative at the State Council, delivered to Nunez a 13-page analysis by his party of the electoral law which, according to it, "may legalize the provisional power that the Sandinist Front has been exercising in a dictatorial manner."

"The fact that it does not permit the participation of the independent parties in the drafting of the electoral bill is proof that the FSLN, in the same way that it imposed the reforms to the Fundamental Statute, may also impose approval of the electoral law to conform to its convenience," the analysis indicates.

The PSC has termed the Law of Political Parties "inefficient," contending that its promulgation "has not contributed to strengthening political pluralism" in Nicaragua. In this respect, the Social Christians told the president of the State Council that the existence of the state of emergency itself was one of the principal obstacles to pluralism.

"The aggressions suffered by our leaders -- the PSC recalled -- affiliates, and headquarters, press censorship, the closing of radio newscasts, and the lack of access to television are just some examples proving that the Law of Political Parties is inefficient and that political pluralism is nonexistent."

Elsewhere, the Social Christian analysis rejects "Whereas IV" of the electoral draft bill, which states that the exercise of the vote is "a duty and not a right."

"The exercise of suffrage must not be considered an obligation," the analysis contends. "In the first place -- it adds -- it is a coercive element for the citizen, besides applying pressure to some groups of citizens, such as public employees, subordinates, and so forth, who are forced to vote for a candidate in order to keep their jobs or to avoid reprisals."

In one of the most important aspects of the analysis, the PSC indicates that "neither the reforms imposed on the Fundamental Statute nor the text of the electoral bill contain the principle of nonreelection." According to the opposition party, "this leaves the doors open for the establishment of a personal or group dictatorship."

Likewise, the PSC criticizes the so-called "electoral circumstances" of the electoral draft bill, whereby the country is divided into regions, subregions, and special zones for voting. "The committee that drafted the electoral bill -- the Social Christian document affirms -- has not clearly explained the criteria used to establish the divisions." "Because there is a lack of statistical data -- it adds -- and it bans polls and censuses, such distribution cannot be accepted; instead, it requires a revision."

The PSC also criticized the appointment of the members of the Supreme Electoral Council which, according to the draft bill, will have ample powers to supervise the registration of voters and the vote count.

According to the draft bill, the three members of the Electoral Council and their respective alternates will be chosen by the State Council from three lists of three candidates to be proposed by the Supreme Court of Justice. The PSC believes that the magistrates of the Supreme Court should not be involved in these appointments and that the opinions of the political parties should be considered instead.

The Social Christians deemed "a negation of the universal principle of submitting an appeal" the fact that according to the draft bill the Supreme Electoral Council's resolutions cannot be questioned. "This also is a negation," the PSC states, "of the powers of the Supreme Court of Justice to reach a final ruling on violations of the law."

In the last part of the analysis on the electoral law, the PSC affirms that it is necessary to adopt the following measures before holding elections in Nicaragua:

a) Derogation of the emergency law.

b) Equal opportunity for all political parties and labor centrals.

c) Separation of the compulsory military service and the Armed Forces from partisan influence.

d) An ample amnesty decree.

PSN SECRETARY GENERAL OUTLINES ELECTORAL STANCE

PA281327 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Interview with Luis Domingo Sanchez Sancho, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party; place and date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Sanchez Sancho] I believe that it is important to stress that the fifth plenum of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN] Central Committee was a very successful event, which consolidated the political and ideological unity and cohesion of our party.

The Central Committee meeting was attended by delegates and plenipotentiary representatives from nearly the entire country. There was an open and democratic discussion, during which we freely expressed our viewpoints and drew some basic conclusions. I believe that the most important conclusion was to reaffirm the PSN's nature and its support for the efforts toward unity being made by the Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR] -- despite the fact that a sector within the FPR has decided to abandon it. We dedicated this event to the memory of General Augusto C. Sandino, who was murdered by the Somozist dictatorship 50 years ago.

We have also decided to participate in the electoral process that will end on 4 November. We are basing our participation on two main factors: 1) to support the presidential candidate put forward by the FSLN, and 2) to participate in the elections for assembly representatives based on a unified, three-name, tripartite ticket [listas unitarias, trinominales y tricolores], with this ticket reflecting the identity, personality, and political profile of each of the organizations, in this case the FSLN, PSN, and the Popular Social-Christian Party [PPSC]. Our political commission has received orders to continue negotiations with the FSLN and the PPSC. These negotiations are still going on, and they are based on the two main points that I have mentioned.

We are going to the elections united, as long as the identity of each of our organizations is respected. At the same time, we will support the FSLN's presidential candidate.

[Unidentified reporter] Luis Sanchez, does this mean that the PSN will present its own list of candidates?

[Sanchez Sancho] Yes. We are already working to prepare the list of our candidates for the six regions and three special zones. We are working hard to ensure a successful and united participation in the 4 November elections, and we are also working on alternatives if we do not reach an agreement with our allies. In that case, we will participate independently.

PSD WITHDRAWAL FROM COUNCIL DEBATES CRITICIZED

PA281300 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Social Democratic Party, PSD, today withdrew from the debates on the electoral bill, drawing wide reaction from all political representatives at the State Council. Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the State Council, quoted Carlos Andres Perez, former Venezuelan president and president of the Socialist International, who said that in politics, you cannot expect to achieve all of your party's goals.

Commander Nunez referred to this because one of the PSD's pretexts for withdrawing was that the reforms proposed by one of its representatives, (Gilmore Coe), were not accepted.

The PSD's withdrawal from the electoral bill's debates at the State Council has received wide comment. The unexpected withdrawal of PSD representative (Gilmore Coe) led to comments by representatives of other parties. Onofre Guevara, FSLN delegate at the State Council, said the PSD withdrawal is being criticized because it represents a negative attitude toward national problems and will only serve to increase the external campaign against the revolutionary process.

Allan Zambrana, representative of the Communist Party of Nicaragua at the State Council, said the PSD's arguments are invalid because the debate on the electoral bill has been carried out in a broad, democratic spirit and the political parties opinions' have been heard.

Nunez Comments

PA281953 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Social Democratic Party's [PSD] attitude of assailing or undercutting the efforts to introduce [as heard] an electoral bill at the State Council was criticized yesterday by the president of that co-legislative body, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez.

[Begin Nunez recording] What happens then? Now, at this time, upon receiving this information, we have realized that some gestures, insolent attitudes, and expressions of excitement and concern -- to some extent -- that were expressed at a given moment and which seemed to result from the tension during the debates among the representatives were really part of a mode of behavior or of an activity -- at least on the part of the PSD -- which is aimed at assailing or undermining the efforts to embody the electoral process in a law.

The PSD may call itself a party, and it is represented at the State Council, but it is straying from the positions of the Social Democratic International and, regretably, seems even to have abandoned its positions as a political party to adopt the positions of an economic group that has repeatedly and persistently raised suggestions -- at a domestic and international level -- that violate our sovereignty. This has even led it to raise as a banner the issue of sabotaging the elections.

In view of these contradictions and the combination of all of the factors that have resulted in this situation, we cannot evade the responsibility of advising the State Council of this decision. We must be on the alert. This is the beginning of an issue that will get worse in the future, which stems from U.S. policy and is expressed through business groups. This must not lead us to impatience or the mistake of confusing the various political positions of the parties represented here with an individual position that has been assumed. [end recording]

BORDER GUARD CHIEF CLAIMS CONTRA LOSSES

PA272216 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Captain Bosco Centeno, chief of the border guard troops, yesterday said that the people have the weapons and are therefore invincible. Centeno made his statement at a ceremony to deliver property titles at the Sandinist People Militia's battalion headquarters in San Miguelito municipality.

After commenting that, due to the people's determined participation and organization, heavy blows have been dealt to the counterrevolution, Captain Centeno added that members of cooperatives in Las Palomas -- comprised mainly of militia members -- inflicted nine casualties on the enemies who were trying to destroy the cooperatives' achievements.

He said that on 2 February militia members of Los Chiles liberated several peasants who had been kidnapped by counterrevolutionaries; five Somozist beasts were killed during the action. The Somozist beasts lack the capacity to face this army of workers and peasants, Captain Centeno said. He added that the people have the weapons to defend their achievements.

Captain Centeno stressed that, due to the people's combat spirit, the counterrevolution has suffered 24 losses: 18 dead, 6 captured, and 2 wounded [figures as heard]. During clashes Pedro Chavez Chavez, a peasant, and a borderguard companero were killed, Centeno reported. He added that these brothers' example multiplies like grains, rice, or beans, and this is what makes the Nicaraguan people invincible.

VOICE OF SANDINO RELEASES ARDE WAR BULLETINS

44 Dead, Post Destroyed

PA282025 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 27 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 184 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 26 February]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world:

1. The Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column, which is part of the Felix Pedro Martinez Unit, under the command of Companero Gordo, set a trap for the interventionist army in Buena Vista, near Cano Chiquito, in Nueva Guinea jurisdiction. They set mines and lured an enemy patrol, which fell into the trap on 23 February 1984 at 1300. The first three soldiers to enter the mined area were killed, while the rest fell into the ambush set up by our column. Sixteen more troops were killed. The following day, using the same strategy, another EPS [Sandinist People's Army] patrol was lured into the minefield, and 23 more enemy troops were killed. After the military action was over the minefield was deactivated and our forces withdrew.

2. On 24 February 1984 at 1000, the Mauricio Sanchez Ayon Column, commanded by Companero Orotina, attacked the Santa Ana military command near Colon, 7 km east of Orosi, in Rivas Department. The enemy offered no resistance, immediately abandoned the post, and retreated in disarray. We held the military post under our control for approximately 1 hour, and there found papers that have been sent to our intelligence unit for examination. Later, following orders issued by our General Command, our column destroyed the military installation.

3. On 25 February 1984 at 1300, the Mario Sanchez Betanco Column, which is part of the Barba 2 Unit, under the command of Companero Charrucado, clased with special forces of the interventionist army in Poza Redonda, Las Azucenas jurisdiction, in Rio San Juan Department. Confronted by the potent gunfire and the valor of our courageous fighters, the enemy retreated after 15 minutes of combat, sustaining two dead and several wounded.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Interior Ministry Convoy Ambushed

PA290353 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 28 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 185 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 27 February]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command informs the people of Nicaragua and the free peoples of the world that on 23 February the (Raimundo Gonzalez) Column of the Barba 2 Unit, commanded by the brave Companero (Sulim), was alerted by their land observation posts about the approach of an Interior Ministry convoy. The column then occupied a strategic position along the roadside at a place known as (Cosugal), 58 km north of San Carlos and 57 km from Acoyapa, and attacked from the right, the left, and the front. During the attack two jeeps were damaged by our machine gun fire and two (Russian) trucks were destroyed. The 39 soldiers of the occupation army traveling in this convoy were killed.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Punta Gorda Clashes Kill 26

PA290410 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 28 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 186 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 27 February]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command informs the people of Nicaragua and the free peoples of the world:

1. Continuing its search and attack missions, the aggressive Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column of the Pablo Martinez Unit commanded by Gordo, the scourge of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] in the Punta Gorda region, carried out a frontal attack against an interventionist army column on El Diamante Hill on 26 February at 1300. The enemy abandoned the area after the skirmish, leaving behind five dead. The number of wounded soldiers is unknown.

2. The next day, 27 February, at 0900 on Niagara Hill, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column, led by Companero Gordo, clashed with the enemy for 4 hours. In the face of the high fighting morale of our forces, the enemy fled in a disorderly manner, abandoning 21 dead soldiers and taking many wounded with them.

3. ARDE General Command recognizes the courage and good military training of the powerful Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column. Its members, inspired by their nationalism and aware of their duty to liberate the homeland from foreign intervention, are causing serious troubles for the occupation Army.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH USSR -- Nicaragua and the USSR yesterday signed a cooperative agreement for science, education, culture, and sports over the next 2 years. The agreement was signed by Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and Soviet Ambassador to Nicaragua German Shlyapnikov. [Summary] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Feb 84 p 9 PA]

WHEELOCK BRIEFS CEMA DELEGATION -- The CEMA technical commission that is currently visiting Nicaragua has been meeting with different sectors of the national economy to determine areas requiring CEMA aid. The delegation, which is led by its vice president, met with Commander Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, who briefed the deelegation on the country's economic situation and agricultural projects. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Feb 84 PA]

MINISTER TO NONALIGNED MEETING -- Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy today left for Geneva to participate in the preliminary meeting of the nonaligned countries' labor ministers. The meeting of nonaligned labor ministers will be held in Managua in May. A delegation of the Nicaraguan Association of Friendship With Socialist Countries, ANAPS, today left for Europe to conclude cooperation agreements. The delegation is led by ANAPS President Socorro Galan. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Feb 84 PA]

AGREEMENT WITH MSZMP -- A delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] headed by Matyas Szuros, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, is visiting Nicaragua. The delegation includes Antal Solyon, official in charge of Latin America for the MSZMP Department of International Relations; and Attila Seres, a reporter for NEPSZABADSAG, the official party publication. The MSZMP and the FSLN signed a mutual cooperation agreement. Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the State Council; Deputy Commander Rafael Solis, secretary of the State Council; and Arnulfo Urrutia and Gilda Bolt of the DRI [not further identified] were present at the signing ceremonies. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 4 PA]

CASTRO SENDS SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO NICARAGUA

PA281920 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Feb 84 p 8

[Letter sent by President Fidel Castro to the members of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Sandino's death; signed in Havana on 20 February]

[Text] Companero Commander of the revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction;

Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the junta;

Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the junta:

On the occasion of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the fall of General Augusto Cesar Sandino, I wish to send you a message of remembrance and militant solidarity on behalf of the Cuban people and Government. At the head of the brave Nicaraguan troops, the veteran hero of Las Segovias staged one of the most gigantic epics in our America when he fought and defeated the invading forces of U.S. imperialism.

The personality of the General of Free Man ranks with extraordinary force among the thinkers of our hemisphere due to the profoundly revolutionary and anti-imperialist natur of his political ideas, whose validity extends to our days when he says: "...The oppressed peoples will break the chains of humiliation with which the imperialists of the world have sought to bind us. The trumpets heard will be the clarions of war intoning the freedom anthems of oppressed peoples against the injustice of the oppressors."

Sandino's banners have been raised by the new generations of revolutionary combatants, and the symbol of struggle that they represent became an extraordinary reality when the FSLN was organized, leading to the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Fifty years after his physical death, Sandino lives in our America. He lives in each child who has a school, in each sick person who receives medical attention, in each peasant who has land, in each task and in each achievement of the Nicaraguan revolution. His unyielding determination to struggle is present in the heroic Nicaraguan people's decision to confront wisely and bravely the increasing aggressiveness of the current U.S. Administration.

During these difficult days, when the U.S. Government openly endorses the counter-revolution and threatens to stage a direct invasion, the firm response given by the Nicaraguan patriots, who give their lives to defend the revolution, is further proof of the validity of Sandino's ideas when, prior to the U.S. invasion of Nicaragua, he said: "...The last of my soldiers, who are the soldiers of Nicaraguan freedom, may die; but before that, more than one of your battalions, you blond invaders, will have bitten the dust of my wild mountains." We are sure that if the Yankees dared step again on the Sandinist homeland, they would suffer an even greater defeat than the one inflicted by Sandino.

Once again we express to you the militant solidarity of the Cuban people and Government, as well as our admiration and respect for the victories that you score each day in the revolutionary struggle.

Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers

INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

FL281949 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Cuba and the USSR have just held important talks to determine the volume of Soviet industrial equipment needed for the remainder of the current 5-year period. This equipment will be assigned to factories being built in Cuba within the framework of the intergovernment economic agreement for the 1981-1985 period.

The talks, held at the Soviet Economic Mission in Cuba, were attended by Yevgeniy Zavivalov, an economic adviser who participated on behalf of the Soviets; and Marcos Portal, minister of basic industry, Rene Puig, vice president of the CECE [State Committee for Economic Cooperation]; and other officials who participated on Cuba's behalf. Shortly after the Soviet cooperation agreement -- a technical project to build a heat-resistant materials factory with a 62,000 ton capacity -- was signed [sentence as heard]. This agreement was signed by Nikolay Maksimov, director of the Avtoeksport office, on behalf of the Soviet Union, and by Armando Sanchez, director of ECIMETAL [Commercial Enterprise for the Metallurgical and Metal-Working Industry], on behalf of Cuba.

SDAR PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

FL281625 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Mahfoud Ali Beiba, prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], and member of the Executive Committee of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro], has made a brief stopover visit to Cuba where he met with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of Ministers and State. The prime minister also held a fraternal meeting with Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Secretariat. At these meetings, it was reiterated to the visiting delegation the unwavering support of Cuba's party and Government for the heroic stance of the peoples of Western Sahara.

RADIO STATION IN ETHIOPIA CELEBRATES 5TH YEAR

FL281535 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1258 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Unidentified Radio Tatek announcer] This is Radio Tatek, the internationalist frequency, beginning its transmissions for today. We hope that our programming pleases you. [end recording]

The internationalist waves of Radio Tatek are commemorating their fifth anniversary in Harare, in socialist Ethiopia. Every morning, Cuban voices greet listeners before they begin their daily task of helping their sister African nation.

Thousands of kilometers from their homeland, the Cuban internationalists listen to the musical message that reminds them of our Caribbean island. This message is carried by this radio station, created by a group of internationalists 5 years ago.

Radio Tatek provides entertainment in the homes and work centers of our compatriots in Ethiopia and, in addition, is very well received by Ethiopians of the area. Through this station, they learn about our country's culture and the political and social developments in Marti's land.

When Radio Tatek was created, it was impossible to estimate the audience this small station would have. Its notable acceptance has led to wider plans for the new radio station and a group of workers was assigned to it. This group is made up of journalists, announcers, and technicians and, though small, is efficient and [word indistinct] enough to fulfill the mission entrusted to them. With great responsibility, the workers organize programs [words indistinct] of a radio station [word indistinct]. Radio Tatek not only offers music but newscasts that carry information necessary for Cuban internationlists.

Tele Rebelde congratulates the internationalist Radio Tatek on its fifth anniversary and wishes success to this station's future tasks. Now we will let Radio Tatek say goodbye to our televiewers:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Radio Tatek announcer] Dear listeners: In this way, Radio Tatek, the internationalist frequency, ends its transmissions for today. We ask you to join us tomorrow on 1242 kHz, medium wave. We say goodbye to you with our national slogan: Fatherland or death, we shall win! [end recording]

ICRT LENGTHENS RADIO, TV PROGRAMMING DAY

FL281900 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The sixth National Radio and Television Festival began its sessions with the 1983 review assembly of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT], held at Culture Theater, Bauta, Havana Province, and attended by 432 delegates from radio and television stations of all Cuba. Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo, Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first secretary of the party in Havana, Nivaldo Herrera, president of the ICRT, Jacinto Viamontes, secretary general of the National Cultural Workers Trade Union, and leaders and officials of the party, trade union, and ICRT presided over the discussion of the main report.

When Nivaldo Herrera addressed the assembly, he reported on the new measures to be carried out by the organization, among which are the merger of the national radio stations Radio Rebelde and Radio Liberacion, with 24-hour programming, and the extension in late March of Tele Rebelde programming to include the hours from 1100 GMT to 0800 GMT [0600-0300 local time].

SNTA ASKS WORKERS TO REDUCE DELAYS IN HARVEST

FL282100 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] In response to the call issued by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to sugar workers at the closing of the 15th CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] Congress asking them to devote special attention to the sugar harvest during these few dry days, the National Sugar Industry Workers Union [SNTA] has issued a special call to union committees of the provinces, bureaus, and labor sections of the agroindustrial centers to adopt a group of measures to reduce delays.

The SNTA urged workers to work very hard between now and the end of the sugar harvest to reduce delays. It also stated that each manual, collective, and mechanized cane-cutting brigade, as well as loading and hauling personnel at work and gathering centers and crane operators should be told about the difficult situation the sugar harvest is facing so that these workers are aware of the additional efforts needed at this stage.

The document also stated that personnel of the sugar industry -- in discussions held by shift, area, brigade, or department -- must necessarily pledge to mill large quantities, working constantly and efficiently during March, April, and May; must fight to avoid paralyzations in the harvest process because of a lack of sugar cane or breakdowns and interruptions in the industry; and must have a reserve force ready -- in the industrial as well as the agricultural sector -- in case it is needed.

In conclusion, the SNTA asked workers to combine the tasks of this harvest with preparations for the next one, and to work firmly to greet Giron's victorious April and the 25th anniversary of the agrarian reform with the completion of these tasks.

CONTADORA FOREIGN MINISTERS HOLD TALKS IN PANAMA

FL281607 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The four foreign ministers of the so-called Contadora Group are continuing their talks on the situation in Central America and the evolving situation the nations of the isthmus are experiencing. These talks are being held in Panama, where the technical group is also meeting with working committees, a meeting that will continue until tomorrow. It is hoped that progress will be made at this meeting in the preparation of research papers, juridical projects, and recommendations concerning economic, social-political, and security matters.

COSTA RICAN MINISTER CITED ON BORDER ATTACK

PA281550 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon has confirmed that the Nicaraguan self-styled counterrevolutionary group "Third Path Movement" carried out an attack on Nicaragua from Costa Rican territory on 20 February.

Solano Calderon said the attack was staged from the Costa Rican village of Conventillos. Because he was in the area at the time of the attack, Soldano Calderon learned that the attack was directed by someone identified as Mario Aviles. He added that the civil guard will continue to watch the border area.

Soldano Calderon stressed the importance of the Perpetual Neutrality Statute, which was enacted to preserve Costa Rica's good relations with its Central American neighbors.

NY TIMES QUOTED ON U.S. PERSONNEL IN EL SALVADOR

FL281458 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1237 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] According to official figures reported in THE NEW YORK TIMES, the number of U.S. military and civilian personnel stationed in El Salvador has been increased considerably in the past year. The U.S. military personnel, excluding the Marines who guard the U.S. Embassy and 23 military doctors, has increased from 61 to 97, and the number of civilians has doubled.

Meanwhile, Colonel Adolfo Blandon, chief of the General Staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, asked the U.S. Government to send an additional $20,000 [figure as heard] and a similar amount in helicopters, THE NEW YORK TIMES said.

Regarding civilians, the number of personnel running the economic assistance program, which amounted to 20 last year, will increase to [figure indistinct] in the next few months. However, the U.S. ambassador said that the figure will be greater.

CASUALTIES, FIGHTING IN EL SALVADOR NOTED

Heavy Fighting in Santa Ana

FL241505 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] In the past few days, the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the paramilitary groups have sustained more than 60 casualties in clashes with the rebels in Santa Ana Department, in northern El Salvador. According to guerrilla sources, heavy fighting has been underway in the past few hours in Masahuat, El Jute, Guarnecia, and Capullo Hill, all of them in Santa Ana Department.

This department is viewed as a strategic area not only because of the economic wealth its soil provides, but because it is the site of important military installations of the regime.

The Armed Forces Press Committee admitted that four soldiers, two of them officers, were killed on the road between Zacatecoluca and San Vicente in the country's central region.

Village Taken

FL251748 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Salvadoran guerrillas inflicted at least 25 casualties on government forces during the takeover of the Masahuat village in the Western Department of Santa Ana. According to Radio Farabundo Marti, casualties at the garrison in that locality included a major, a captain, and a sergeant.

Fighting in Aguilares

FL272120 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The northern part of El Salvador has been without electricity for 3 days following armed clashes between Salvadoran Army forces and guerrillas. Radio Farabundo Marti stated that the fighting took place in the town of Aguilares, located 35 kilometers north of San Salvador. During the fighting, the rebels cut high-tension wires that connect the national electric system with the northern part of El Salvador.

The Armed Forces Press Committee stated that troops of the 15th infantry brigade were being sent towards San Vicente, Chalatenango, Usulutan, and Morazan to patrol areas under guerrilla control.

Radio Farabundo Marti asked for action by the church and international humanitarian organizations to stop indiscriminate air attacks on the civilian populace.

Attack in Usulutan

FL281605 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The takeover of a town in Usulatan Department, an attack against a military train in Chalatenango Department, and increased control over the Pan American Highway are all operations which the Salvadoran guerrillas have executed recently. FMLN groups attacked Villa del Triunfo, Usulutan Department, but there was no fighting because the regime's troops fled in view of the rebel advance. Guerrilla forces fought military forces last night, killing several soldiers in an attack on a military train, while other guerrillas seized a new stretch of the Pan American Highway.

The FMLN announced on Monday the start of a new guerrilla campaign named Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977 [Viva los Heroes y Martires del 28 de Febrero de 1977].

Army Suffers Casualties

PA282310 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Salvadoran guerrilla forces have harassed government troops in zones in San Vicente, Usulutan, and San Miguel Departments. The government troops have suffered many casualties in these actions. The most significant actions have taken place in the cantons of San Jacinto, San Bartolo, and San Nicolas, and on El Pajal Hill, in San Vicente Department.

Meanwhile, in Usulutan Department, rebels occupied Villa El Triunfo and kilometer 118, along part of the Pan American Highway. Other FMLN units occupied the villages of Comacaran and Uluazapa in San Miguel Department, where they burned the mayoral and communications offices. Rebel forces also attacked an Army train near San Antonio. Police forces suffered 20 casualties in this clash.
These operations are part of the new campaign, Long Live the 28 February Heroes and Martyrs.

REPRESSIVE MEASURES CONTINUING IN GUATEMALA

Human Rights Group on Abuses

PA271617 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission has charged that the regime is stepping up its genocide against the Guatemalan civilian population, especially in the country's rural areas. According to the source, on 22 February some 200 troops stormed the village of San Jose Belice in San Marcos Department, where they kidnapped 30 peasants, burned their homes, and perpetrated all kinds of abuses. According to this humanitarian organization, on the same day several troops kidnapped 10 peasants in the Ocos area, also in San Marcos Department. The commission mentions other genocidal actions carried out by troops against the Guatemalan peasants, whom it claims are victims of the inhuman scorched-earth policy practiced by the regime.

ENFOPRENSA Reports Kidnappings

FL241930 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] In Guatemala, the regime's troops have razed a peasant village and kidnapped many people in three other towns in San Marcos Department. ENFOPRENSA reported that approximately 200 soldiers surrounded and seized a village, kidnapped 30 peasants -- both men and women -- and burned houses, sowing terror among the townspeople. In three other towns, the soldiers kidnapped 12 people and killed 4 in the presence of neighbors.

In Guatemala City, combined Army and police forces surrounded a bus terminal and arrested 100 people.

Meanwhile, the Association of Guatemalan Journalists has announced that laws are not being enforced in the country. They noted that the rights to habeas corpus and defense are being violated and man's physical integrity is not being respected.

Kidnappings in Guatemala City

FL241510 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] New cases of kidnapping and arrest have been reported in Guatemala City, while the leader of the regime has shown that he advocates violence by describing it as something folkloric in that country.

It was reported that Fernando Garcia of the Gavisa Glass Company union was kidnapped in Guatemala City on Tuesday, and Victor Hugo Quintanilla and Alma Lidia Samayoa were kidnapped on Sunday.

For his part, (Eduardo Meyer), rector of the San Carlos National University, has reported a government persecution against intellectuals by noting that 30 university students and professionals were kidnapped recently. Asked about this situation, General Oscar Mejia Victores, leader of the Guatemalan regime, said: I feel that violence is alright; it is something folkloric in our country.

REBELS INFLICT 43 CASUALTIES ON GUATEMALAN ARMY

FL281420 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Dispatches from Guatemala have disclosed that the Army suffered 43 casualties as a result of sustained guerrilla activities in that country in February. According to a bulletin issued by the Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP], EGP rebels carried out nine attacks in El Quiche Department. Meanwhile, a newscast in Guatemala City reported the annihilation of a large contingent of soldiers.

In addition, the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission has noted that the extermination of civilians is continuing in Guatemala. This statement was made in a communique issued in San Jose, Costa Rica.

It was also learned that the post of deputy chief of state has been created and that the chief of the general staff will hold this new position. According to analysts, this is a concession made by the military command to prevent the overthrow of General Oscar Mejia Victores.

NICARAGUAN DEFENSE MINISTER ON REBEL CASUALTIES

PA271504 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega has announced that in recent months his country's Armed Forces have carried out 190 operations against counterrevolutionary bands. A total of 600 counterrevolutionaries were killed in these actions. Speaking at a ceremony honoring the Sandinist People's Militia Day in the City of Esteli, Commander Ortega said that compared with 1982, counterrevolutionary actions have increased by 100 percent. This is very important, Ortega stressed, because the Yankee imperialists think that their threats and their daily attacks from Honduras and Costa Rica will make the Nicaraguan people tremble. In this regard, the Nicaraguan defense minister warned that if the U.S. Army invades Nicaragua, it will not meet unarmed men as it did in Grenada.

Commenting on the elections slated for November 1984, Commander Ortega explained that the elections will not be held to please the Yankees, but to improve the revolutionary process.

NICARAGUAN COUNCIL APPROVES ELECTORAL ARTICLES

PA271244 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The plenum of the Nicaraguan State Council has approved 11 more articles of the electoral bill being debated by this co-legislative organization. The debates will continue on Monday. Among the approved articles are those related to the schedule of the elections, the registration of eligible citizens and parties, the nomination deadline for candidates, and the electoral campaign.

In other news, Sandinist Commander Omar Cabezas has announced in Mexico City that the Nicaraguan Government will abolish the emergency law in late July, when the electoral campaign officially begins. He reiterated his government's decision to hold the elections despite the aggression financed and organized by the United States.

NICARAGUAN LABOR LEADER VIEWS UPCOMING ELECTION

PA271549 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The elections slated for November in Nicaragua will help to increasinly expand and legitimize the achievements of the Sandinist revolution, which triumphed on 19 July 1979, Dennis Melendez, secretary of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers [CST], has told this station. Melendez stressed that along with the rest of the population, Nicaraguan workers are actively participating in creating civilian defense organizations in the county's labor centers. They are also preparing to fulfill production goals and overcome the problems that have resulted from the imperialist blockade imposed on Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan leader finally reiterated that in 1984, when the fifth anniversary of the victory of the revolution will be celebrated, the CST is organizing the first national union, which will serve as the future basis for a unified organization.

Melendez headed the Nicaraguan delegation that attended the 15th congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Workers recently held here in Havana.

ARGENTINA SEEKS EXTRADITION OF MONTONERO LEADER

PA261945 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Montonero leader Mario Firmenich has branded as unfair the decision by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's government to request his extradition from the Brazilian authorities. Firmenich is being held in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro at the request of the Argentine authorities, awaiting the decision of the Brazilian justice system on the request for extradition.

The Argentine political leader said that the Montoneros support the proper measures being implemented by President Alfonsin, while noting that an estimated 5,000 members of his organization were killed fighting the various military dictatorships.

ANTI-PINOCHET DEMONSTRATION IN CHILE DISPERSED

PA252024 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] One person was injured and eight were arrested when the police dispersed a demonstration against General Augusto Pinochet's presence in the city of Punta Arenas, in southern Chile, some 2,100 km south of Santiago, Chile. Carabineros and policemen in civilian clothes moved against 300 people who destroyed a poster welcoming Pinochet to Punta Arenas and shouted slogans against the military dictatorship.

Pinochet has begun a 6-day tour of southern Chile.

COLOMBIAN PEACE COMMISSION TALKS WITH REBELS

PA222042 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The president of the Colombian Peace Commission, John Agudelo Rios, has said in Bogota that the dialogue with the rebel groups is so far quite promising, but that complete settlement has not yet been reached with any of them.

A member of the commission, communist Alberto Rojas, said that an agreement for the pacification of the country is near, at least as far as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] is concerned. He added that the 19 April Movement [M-19] is also negotiating a peace agreement.

PERUVIAN MAYOR FAVORS REAGAN'S POLITICAL DEFEAT

PA280401 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Alfredo Barrantes Lingan, mayor of Lima, has expressed his confidence that the people of Nicaragua will give their full support to the FSLN in the November elections.

Upon his return from Managua, and after a brief stopover in Havana, Barrantes Lingan said in Lima that he hopes the U.S. President will be defeated in the next presidential elections. He added that that head of state's departure from the White House would lessen world tensions and eliminate the danger of a world war.

After referring to the U.S. pressures for elections in Nicaragua, the Lima mayor asked why Washington does not demand that elections also be held in Chile and Uruguay. The fact that it does not demand this, he stressed, proves that the United States is not interested in so-called democracy, but seeks to support governments that defend the imperialist U.S. policy.

PERUVIAN OFFICIAL TAKES ACTION AGAINST CUBANS

PA180441 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Julio Castro, mayor of Lima's San Luis District, has summoned residents to an open town council meeting to take place next Sunday, to demand the expulsion of Cuban criminals from the Tupac Amaru Park, which they have occupied since 1980. An inspection visit that the Peruvian mayor was to conduct at the park was thwarted by the hostile behavior of the park occupants, who even threatened to lynch the official if he persisted in his attempt to enter.

The 280 Cuban criminals who remain in the park have staged serious disorders. On one occasion they hijacked a commercial airliner, demanding that authorities arrange their transfer to the United States.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROBE, BOMBINGS, STRIKES IN PERU

Red Cross Visits Prisons

PA241942 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] At the request of a large number of democratic organizations in various countries, an International Red Cross delegation has been visiting prisons in Peru to investigate charges of human rights violations. The investigations are expected to demonstrate that the military and police are responsible for the violations.

In Cajamarca, Trujillo, and the vicinity of Cerro de Pasco, unidentified people have dynamited police and military installations, stores, and other establishments.

Meanwhile, it has been reported in Lima that the wave of strikes by workers from several sectors in demand of salary raises continues.

Explosions in Ayacucho

PA262010 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Several explosions have been noted in the Ayacucho region of Peru, a clandestine cemetery was revealed in Totos, and a military unit was charged with the murder of 10 peasants.

The explosions were reported to have taken place near a civil guard post at the Cabitos Garrison, the airport, and the Ayacucho regional office for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The residents of Totos, in Cangallo Province, reported that several clandestine burials took place in 1983 and in the first part of this year, and claimed that some of the bodies that were discovered showed signs of torture.

Meanwhile, the Peasant Confederation of Peru charged that on 17 January members of the 43d Motorized Infantry Battalion killed 10 peasants in the towns of Socos, Manzanayoc, and Palermo.

Airport Workers on 24-Hour Strike

PA282251 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Civilian workers at Peruvian airports are on a 24-hour strike to demand a wage increase. The strike was called by the workers unions of the Corporation for Airports and Commercial Aviation, CORPAC, a state enterprise that controls the country's 33 airports.

Meanwhile, early Monday morning near the Mexican Embassy in Lima, Peruvian police arrested three men suspected of being members of an armed group. Two dynamite explosions occurred in Lima at approximately the same time, one in a tailor's shop and the other in a store.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT SEVERAL L.A. NATIONS

FL241750 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Central American conflicts, economic cooperation, and the need to support the Argentine and Brazilian democracies will be the topics of talks during a visit to be made by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela. The Mexican president has sent to Congress a request asking for authorization to to travel to several Latin American countries, a trip he intends to begin on 26 March.

In his message, De la Madrid said that the relations among states have recently become more complex and that we are living in an era of high tension increasing threats to world peace and stability. The document cites the main ideas on trade and financial relations that were expressed in the declaration issued at the Latin American Economic Conference in Quito.

GRENADIAN COUNCIL ACCUSED OF FOLLOWING U.S. LINE

FL281610 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Kendrick Radix, Grenadian revolutionary leader and member of the Maurice Bishop government, has accused the Paul Scoon administration -- imposed on Grenada -- of being a neocolonial regime at the service of the United States. Radix, formerly justice minister and permanent representative to the UN, stated at a press conference that the provisional Advisory Council, named by Scoon, makes its decisions based on instructions received from the U.S. Embassy in Grenada.

OECS FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET TO PREPARE SUMMIT

FL282159 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 28 (CANA) -- Foreign ministers of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) were today meeting here to discuss a number of institutional matters related to the seven-nation regional sub-grouping. These included the possibility of establishing an OECS diplomatic presence in the Far East, and existing arrangements for overseas representation in London and Ottawa.

Antigua and Barbuda Minister Without Portfolio Hugh Marshall, filling in for Foreign Minister Lester Bird, was chairing the meeting attended by five OECS heads of government.

Today's foreign ministers' meeting is a forerunner to tomorrow's summit of the OECS government leaders. Heads of government present today are Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Prime Minister of St Kitts-Nevis Kennedy Simmonds, Chief Minister of Montserrat John Osbourne, and the head of the interim administration in Grenada, Nicholas Brathwaite. Minister of Agriculture Vincent Beache is representing St Vincent.

ANGUILLA

MARCH ELECTIONS SET; PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED

FL281744 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The island of Anguilla will hold elections next month, more than 2 years earlier than required. The island's governor confirms that Chief Minister Ronald Webster has set the elections for 9 March. The governor also says Parliament was dissolved last week. Nominations to fill the vacated seats will be opened tomorrow.

POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS ON ISLAND INDEPENDENCE

FL242056 Bridgetown CANA in English 1840 GMT 24 Feb 84

[By Alister Hughes]

[Text] The Valley, Anguilla, Feb 24 (CANA) -- The leaders of Anguilla's two main political parties, preparing for snap elections early next month, say they will not be pushing independence as an issue because they see it as irrelevant to this tiny British colony at this stage. Chief Minister Ronald Webster, leader of the Anguilla People's Party (APP), said independence is not the answer to the island's problems, indicating that Anguillans were quite happy with their present status. "Within the next 30 to 40 years, I do not envisage Anguillans thinking in terms of independence because it is not beneficial to us," the veteran Anguilla leader told CANA in an interview here this week.

Opposition leader Emile Gumbs, who heads the Anguilla National Alliance (ANA), said Anguillans were better off than citizens from some neighbouring Caribbean Islands that had vouched for independence.

"...Take a hard look at what is happening in places like Dominica, Antigua, and Grenada and see what has gone on there since independence and then look at places like the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands which still remain crown colonies and look at the peoples here," Gumbs said. "I think the people in Anguilla are better off financially than the vast majority of people in St Kitts and Dominica."

Anguilla reverted to colonial status after breaking away in 1967 from the three-island British associated states of St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. St Kitts-Nevis gained independence last September.

Webster said his "Caribbean brothers" outside of Anguilla who call for a throwing off of the "colonial yoke" do not understand that "going independent" is not necessarily "achieving freedom." "Anguilla is a colony of Great Britain but we have enough control here to manage our own affairs. Britain sees only about defence and foreign relations," he said. Concerning the fact that Britain must approve all laws passed by the Anguilla legislature, the chief minister said London did not insist on having amendments made unless the matter is "complex", and he did not feel the British presence to be oppressive.

Anguilla has an area of 35 square miles and a population of about 7,000.

Opposition leader Gumbs said the only "independence" Anguilla may achieve is through some form of West Indian federation. He added Anguilla may find it difficult to join such a grouping with the English-speaking islands because of its close ties with the Dutch, French, and United States Islands.

Webster said the Anguilla Government was supportive of last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada but was unable to publicly state its position because as a British colony, London looks after its foreign relations. "It was a God-send when America went in. God bless President Ronald Reagan and other supporters for that. If it wasn't for that, we too would have been crippled," Webster said.

Webster said his government sent a message to London outlining its position on the matter and expected Britain to speak on the issue on its behalf. Britain advised against the invasion. "I believe (the British) imposed independence on our Caribbean countries before they were matured and I believe they were a little embarrassed and this caused them to take the stand they did on the matter," said the Chief Minister.

The Grenada invasion was to put down a radical military junta that had ousted and killed moderate leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half of his cabinet. Grenada is a former British colony.

Opposition leader Emile Gumbs, who sent a congratulatory cable to Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles for her role in the operation, said Anguillans were disappointed their government could not make a statement on the issue.

"But the Anguilla Government did nothing because Anguilla is a dependent territory and the British governor, protraying the stance of the British Government, was not in favour of the United States going into Grenada," he said. "I think (the invasion) is the best thing to happen to Grenada for a very long time and I hope time will prove me right."

JAMAICA

PRIME MINISTER SEAGA ON FOREIGN-OWNED BANKS

FL242103 Bridgetown CANA in English 1511 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 24 (CANA) -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga has taken issue with foreigh-owned commercial banks here for what he said was their hands-off attitude towards concessional funds made available by two government development banks for medium and long-term on-lending.

Seaga said that it was the two Jamaican banks -- The National Commercial Bank and the Jamaica Citizen's Bank -- which were for the main part utilising the reserves for development credit provided by the National Development Bank (NDB) and the Agricultural Credit Bank (ACB), which are wholesalers of capital. The Prime Minister's implication was that the foreign banks seemed unwilling to employ the kind of staff needed to process medium- and long-term loans, based on project viability. Such applications were being made in many cases by farmers and others without huge collateral. "I will live to see the day when the others (the foreign owned banks) come running, I assure you," Seaga told reporters.

The Prime Minister said that the National Development Bank had been a success so far, currectly having committed loans up to 5.5 million dollars since May last year and with projections for loans of 13.5 million up to May this year. But two-thirds of the loan commitments were to the state-owned National Commercial Bank (NCB), the Prime Minister said. The conclusion could be drawn he added, that the other banks were not adequately utilising the resource of the NDB. Seaga said the pattern reflected the NCB'S commitment to medium and long-term lending, and that there was need for much more use of the NDB by commercial banks, merchant banks and credit unions, which were retailers of funds.

With the Agricultural Credit Bank, Seaga said that the target of U.S. 7 million dollars in loan commitments by March 31 this year had been almost attained already.

MANLEY ON GRENADA ELECTIONS, U.S. INTERVENTION

FL242026 Bridgetown CANA in English 1820 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] New York, Feb 24 (CANA) -- Former Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley last night condemned the U.S.-led intervention in Grenada and said general elections planned for later this year by the interim administration would be a "superficial exercise." Manley, who led the Jamaica Government between 1972 and 1980, was answering questions after a public lecture on the development of so-called Western imperialism and colonialism at New York's Columbia University Teachers College. "No nation has the right to send troops to solve another nation's problems," Manley declared.

American Marines, backed by a token force from half a dozen Caribbean islands, went into Grenada last October to oust the Island's Marxist military that had taken power after the overthrow and murder of the leftwing Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop and some of his cabinet colleagues.

The assumption of power by the military was an upshot of an ideological and leadership quarrel with the New Jewel Movement (NJM), within which the Armed Forces played a prominent role.

Manley said the coup which precipitated the intervention was "a major tragedy." But he insisted the American action was "unprincipled and wrong." He noted that hitherto American intervention in the hemisphere had not extended to the English-speaking Caribbean and said this would be regretted one day. Manley argued that any election that would be held in Grenada in the present atmosphere could only be "completely superficial." What should happen, he suggested, was for the people of Grenada to be allowed to hold constitutional conventions for about a year and come up with the kind of constitution they wanted "out of the wreckage of the (Bishop) revolution."

Manley also expressed concern over the return to Grenada of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy, whom he called a lout.

Gairy, an eccentric accused of human right's violations and squandering the country's resources, was overthrown by Bishop in 1979. Manley said he was now "hovering like a vulture" over Grenada.

Manley said too that any attempt to fit the current problems in Central America in an East-West frame is "ignorance bordering on the dangerous." The crisis in that region, he said, was the product of poverty, under-development, and a history of tyranny.

On the issue of the treatment by the USA of his administration and the present conservative government in Jamaica, Manley said Prime Minister Edward Seaga since coming into power in 1980 had received considerable aid from President Reagan, but had managed to "squander it all in the first two years."

TOUGH BILL AMENDMENT TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFIC

FL290052 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] Jamaica's airspace is being invaded by foreign aircraft, entering and departing without permission, jeopardising life and property, according to the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport Hon. Pearnel Charles. "No respectable country or its leaders can allow this sort of thing to continue," Mr Charles said as he made his contribution to the debate on the Bill to amend the Civil Aviation Act in the House of Representatives on Tuesday. The amendment of the Bill seeks to:

(A) Increase the maximum penalties for offences against the regulations to $100,000 and five years imprisonment, or both.

(B) Empower the Minister to make regulations for the seizure, forfeiture, and disposal of aircraft which land or take off at a place other than an aerodrome designated by the Minister.

(C) Empower the Minister to authorise the Security Forces to demolish airstrips, unlicensed aerodromes, or aerodromes being used contrary to the terms of licence.

The Bill also empowers the Minister, after consultation with the Commissioner of Police and the Director of Civil Aviation, to require the owner of the land to take measures necessary to prevent the land being used for unlawful landing or take-off; prohibit the building or operation of aerodromes without the approval of the Minister; and provide for the cortrol of open spaces.

Mr Charles said that the amendment was necessary to provide for "severe penalties" to deter "those reprehensible persons who are engaged in air transportation for illegal purposes, including the carriage of drugs".

"Jamaica is being violated by traffickers in dangerous drugs. Those persons, whether from abroad or are Jamaicans or persons resident in Jamaica who assist in this trafficking, are a menace to law-abiding Jamaicans and residents, as well as to the good name of our island," he declared.

Mr Charles charged that persons who flew into Jamaica either to land illegal goods or animals or weapons and ammunition, or to pick up ganja and other drugs, were a threat to the "safe, orderly and expeditious" flow of air traffic, operating legally over Jamaica.

Due to the suspected increase in unauthorized and uncontrolled flights operating over Jamaica and the possibility that such flights might create a dangerous hazard to normal traffic, pilots were advised to exercise "extreme caution" while operating over Jamaica and within 12 nautical miles of the coastline.

Foreign-registered civil aircraft "shall not land or take off from any place in Jamaica other than Norman Manley International and Sangster International Airports, Tinson Pen, Boscobel and Ken Jones domestic aerodromes, without written permission from the Collector-general," he told the House.

The Minister said that the Bill provided for "the taking of such steps, including the firing on aircraft, as may be prescribed as respects aircraft flying over areas of Jamaica over which flying is prohibited by the regulations." Mr Charles pointed to the work that the Jamaica Defence Force had done in demolishing airstrips which he said had blossomed in Jamaica, in some cases overnight. "So far, 15 have been destroyed, and for those that have been rebuilt, they will be destroyed again," he said. Records in his Ministry indicated that from 1979 to December 1983 a total of 163 aircraft were known to have failed in their missions, while the export of narcotics by air on scheduled carriers had continued. He warned that the Federal laws of the United States provided for the seizure or forfeiture of vessels or aircraft which were used to facilitate in the importation of articles contrary to U.S. laws. In addition, he said U.S. law also provided for a penalty of U.S. $25 per ounce for marijuana found on board a vessel or aircraft.

Almost every day between December last year and early January, 40 lbs of ganja had been removed from the new A-300 aircraft. Between June last and January a total of 22,000 lbs of ganja had been taken from ships flying between Kingston and the United States, the U.S. Customs had advised him, he said.

Speaking on the trafficking of hard drugs and its side-effects, Mr Charles said that the Jamaican people were a "family at heart" who did not wish to see their children "hooked on drugs dragged down to the depths of Hades never to be returned," all because of depraved persons who wanted to make a fortune. He said that the National Council on Drug Abuse must be given encouragement in its endeavour to combat the spread of cocaine, heroin, marijuana and other addictive drugs, particularly with respect to the growing involvement in schools.

The Minister commended the GLEANER celebrating its 150th year of operation, for bringing to public attention in many of its articles the problem of hard drugs.

The need to ensure that the dogs brought into Jamaica come from countries which were free from rabies could not be over-emphasized, he said, adding that dogs had been brought into Jamaica illegally to protect, inter alia, ganja fields. He asked the House to imagine the consequences if one "of those rabies-infested dogs" bit a mongoose.

Mr Charles said that through a programme undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, some of the dogs had been sent back out of the island, while others had been destroyed. "I will put my life on the line for the protection of my country. I am not unaware of the danger of speaking out for my country; I am not unaware of the Mafia ring and the strength of Mr Big, he said. "Lawlessness can never be completely eliminated, but in this matter of drug-trafficking, we have no alternative but to make laws and to enforce them with every means at our disposal," he declared.

Denying the claims that the amendment to the Act was associated with demands from Washington, he said he was not aware of following instructions outside of the country, but he was not embarrassed if any country associated itself with the Act because he thought the Act was right for the country.

Mr Charles commended the Church for giving support to the Bill, referring to the presentation made by Rev. Alston Henry at the Bar of the House -- the first person to do so in the new Parliamentary procedure.

Finally he invited the House to approve the Bill, which was eventually referred to a select committee of both Houses.

ECONOMIC CRUNCH SPURS CAPITAL BUDGET CUTS

FL231505 Bridgetown CANA in English 2059 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 22 (CANA) -- The Jamaica Government's cut in spending on public sector projects is slashing J83.5 million dollars (one JCA dollar; 30 cents U.S.) off the capital budget for this fiscal year, according to supplementary estimates tabled in Parliament here.

When the government tabled its 3.2 billion dollar budget for the financial year which ends in April, some 1.1 billion dollars was allocated for capital spending. But in the past year, Jamaica has been subjected to an economic crunch, following the failure of International Monetary Fund (IMF) performance tests that forced Prime Miniseter Edward Seaga into a period of belt tightening.

The first supplementary estimates tabled by Seaga in Parliament Tuesday night indicated the economic structures, showing that the government was projecting total budgetary under-expenditure on the capital side of over [figure indistinct] dollars.

With the regular in-house shifts, transfers of 78.5 million dollars deducted, the capital budget ends up at a little over 1.01 billion dollars -- a reduction of 83.5 million. The capital savings plus a projected 5.3 million dollars under expenditure on the recurrent budget means that the government will have to seek from Parliament approval for only 231 million dollars, against the nearly 320 million dollars with which it would have been otherwise, according to the estimates. The original recurrent budget was J2.1 billion dollars, and will now move to 2.43 million dollars.

Analysts say that the growth on the recurrent budget would not indicate any particular increase in government activity, as a significant portion of the higher expenditure would have been the result of inflation. They point to the recent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar as one factor that would have influenced government recurrent cost.

Normally there are two supplementary estimates before the close of each fiscal year. The analysts say that the fact that this one has come so late and that the government has pointed to 162.8 million dollars in under expenditure in the capital budget suggested that the administration was committed to a cut of that amount.

Last June in announcing an austerity package, Prime Minister Seaga had spoken of a 149 (?million dollar) budget cut, they noted.

The impact on the capital cutbacks was widespread throughout the government sector. Among the hardest hit were the ministries of construction, agriculture, education, youth and community development and, public utilities and transport. For example, in the Construction Ministry a rural road improvement programme has had 17 million dollars slashed from its budget and its housing fund cut from 26.5 million dollars. The Agriculture Ministry has a 6.1 million dollar cutback, affecting projects such as crop care, soil conservation, land settlement and production incentives.

In health, the allocation for hospital improvement is cut by J5 million dollars. The Education Ministry will have to reduce grants to teachers colleges, the University of the West Indies and secondary schools by 7.5 million dollars, while the Ministry of Youth and Community Development had its Sports Development Institute's budget lopped by 2.8 million dollars and the allocation of the repair and construction of community centres by 2.4 million dollars.

CANADA SUPPLIES FUNDS FOR CONTINUED OIL SEARCH

FL180135 Bridgetown CANA in English 2257 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 17 (CANA) -- Canada today formally agreed to give Jamaica 5.65 million dollars (Can) to finance the continued search for oil here. An agreement to this effect was signed between the state-run Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) and Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC). The grant will help finance the drilling of a well on New Bank on the south coast shelf, later this year, as well as geological research assistance in specialised areas and selected job-related training.

Jamaica previously drilled for oil in the Pedro Banks about 50 miles off the southern coast, but Energy Minister Hugh Hart said that studies on New Banks, 40 miles closer in, were encouraging.

The agreement was signed by William V. Saunders, managing director of the PCJ, and Peter M. Towe, chairman of the PCIAC. Senator Hugh Hart, minister of mining and energy, approved the agreement on behalf of the government of Jamaica.

In July 1982 PCIAC gave the PCJ a grant of 6.8 million dollars (Can) which was used to acquire 2,900 line kilometres of seismic, gravity and magnetic data, off southern and eastern coasts of Jamaica. It also covered the interpretation of the data and 4,165 kilometres of similar data from the south coast shelf, as well as management services of the onshore drilling that took place here between late 1982 and early last year. Six on-shore wells were sunk.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT MAY SET UP CONSULAR OFFICE IN GRENADA

FL281646 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Government may establish a consular office in Grenda to facilitate travel to Trinidad by thousands of Grenadians. Grenadians now must go to Barbados to obtain visas to visit Trinidad, a requirement imposed by the Trinidadian Government following the coup and murder of Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three members of his cabinet.

CHANGES FOR ELECTORAL MACHINERY SUGGESTED

FL201410 Bridgetown CANA in English 2312 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 19 (CANA) -- A leftwing political party, the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC), has suggested sweeping changes in Trinidad and Tobago's electoral machinery, ranging from the appointment of Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) members to the deployment of policemen on polling day and the conducting of voter registration.

In a document the party said it had submitted to the government, NJAC stated that the reputation and the integrity of the commission needed to be improved. It called for the major political parties to be involved in the appointment of EBC members, while saying that all members of the commission should be subjected to accountability legislation. "Provision (should) be made for political parties to scruntinise such appointees, with a view to rejecting those found unfit for holding such office," said NJAC, a small party which gained prominence in the 1970's during black power demonstrations, but has never gained a seat in Parliament.

Noting that the establishment of electoral boundaries was a major controversial issue, the party recommended an all-parties conference to discuss the issue. NJAC also said it was against armed policemen being stationed in polling booths, saying this created "intimidatory atmosphere." It suggested policemen be posted at the perimeter of the stations, to ensure that regulations relating to such matters as attempts to influence voting are not broken.

The party called for a major voters' registration programme, including the deployment of vehicles, and the setting up of registration units in places frequented by people. It also suggested that the Elections and Boundaries Commission collaborate with such bodies as the Registrar of Births and Deaths, the Post Office, the Chief Statistical Office, and the Immigration Department, to ensure that loopholes in the registration process are plugged and that voting is problem-free.

It recommended provisional registration of voters "for a certain period" after the revised voters lists have been closed.

It called for "proper and more secure" posting of voters lists, with close monitoring of their existence and condition. NJAC also said that scrutineers should be present "at specific times" when preliminary voters' lists are being modified.

The party said the Elections and Boundaries Commission needed to be more open and frank in its dealings with the population and with political parties. The Commission should also involve the population "intentionally and meaningfully" in its activities and operations, the party said.